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Table Tennis News

Official Journal of the English Table Tennis Association

EDITED BY **GEORGE YATES**

No. 83

December, 1976

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A Merry Chris Christmas

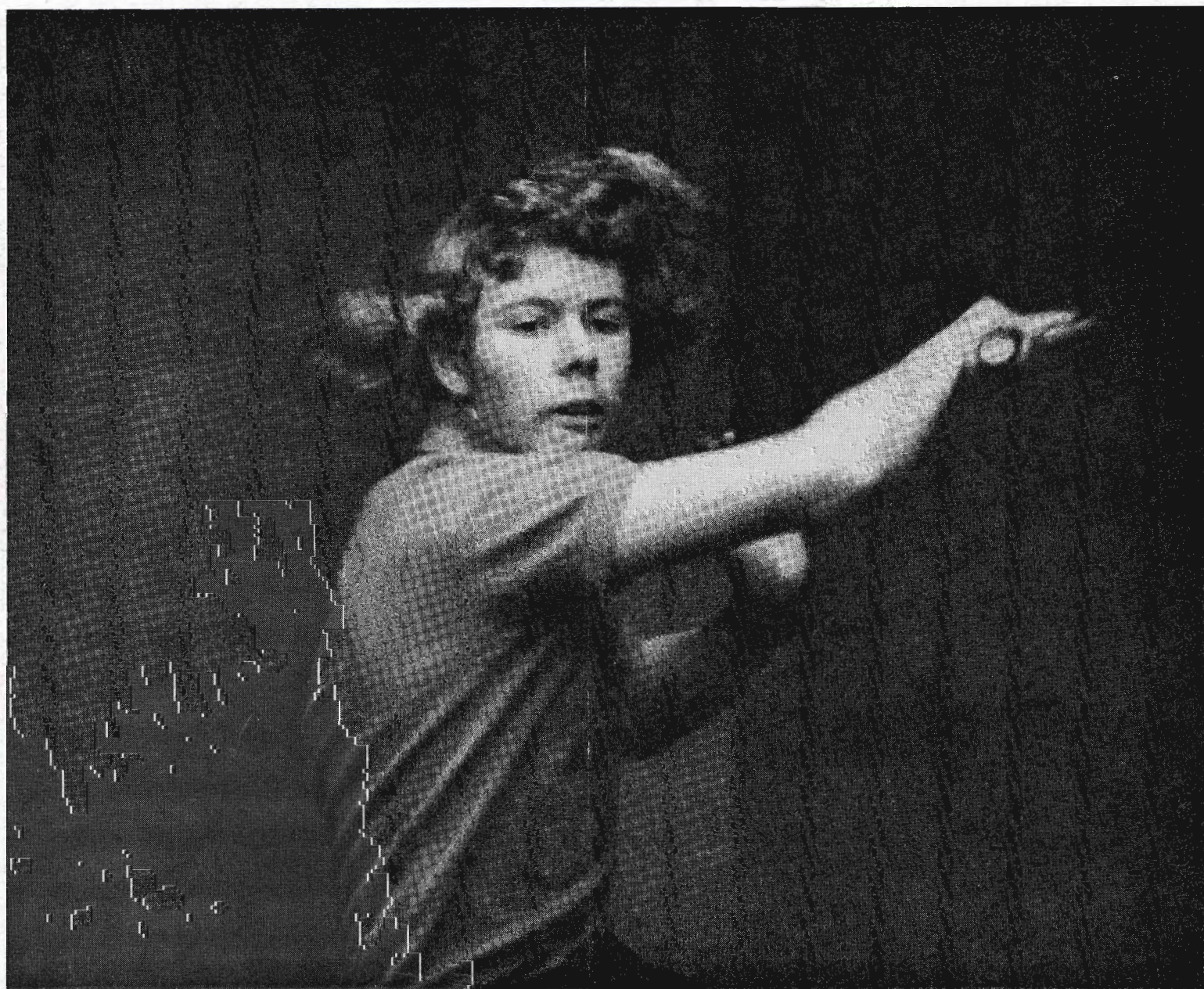


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TALL ORDER

Three successive defeats in the Super Division of the European League has left England with a great deal of leeway to make up if they are to maintain their newly-acquired status among the elite.

Six sets adrift of Federal Germany, whose 5-2 victory over Yugoslavia on September 30 was a body blow to English hopes, has cast serious doubts on our ability to close the gap even if we were to secure an away victory over the Germans in the final encounter on March 3.

An away fixture is next due against Sweden on December 15, followed by home matches against Czechoslovakia, at Horwich Leisure Centre, Bolton, on January 19, and Hungary, at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, on February 10.

The incentive is there for a grandstand finish but much will hinge on the outcome of the two remaining home fixtures when, hopefully, an obliteration of the 0-7 reverse suffered at Ipswich Corn Exchange to the Soviet Union will be achieved.

"To travel hopefully is better than to arrive" is an oft-quoted maxim, the hope being that we will survive in the final analysis. Have not we got four players in the latest I.T.T.F. world classification lists?

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

FIRST REVERSE

From being an inconspicuous force last season, with but one win over demoted Poland to their name, Hungary stretched their unbeaten Super Division record in the European League to three wins when they inflicted the first reverse of the season on France in Miskolc on November 4.

Starting out like world-beaters, Gabor Gergely terminated the unbeaten run of Jacques Secretin in the very first set on which solid foundation the Hungarians built up a 3-0 lead with Istvan Jonyer accounting for Patrick Birocheau and Beatrix Kishazi having a similar 2-straight win over Claude Bergeret.

But a French revival was well under way with two doubles successes and Birocheau holding Gergely to one game all in the penultimate set. Expectations of a grandstand finish failed to materialise when Gergely took the decider at 12 albeit Secretin beat Jonyer in the final set. Individual scores were:—

G. Gergeley bt J. Secretin -14, 17, 17.
I. Jonyer bt P. Birocheau 15, 15.
B. Kishazi bt C. Bergeret 21-15, 21-14.
Jonyer/T. Klampar lost to Birocheau/Secretin -11, -16.
Gergely/J. Magos lost to Secretin/Bergeret -13, -11.
Gergely bt Birocheau 16, -19, 12.
Jonyer lost to Secretin -10, 17, -14.

On the previous evening, in Handlova, Yugoslavia suffered their second defeat in three matches when beaten 6-1 by Czechoslovakia, whose only loss was incurred in the mixed doubles won by Dragutin Surbek and Erzebet Palatinus over Milan Orlovski and Blanka Silhanova. Even the mighty Surbek failed in both his singles and, in partnership with Damir Jurcic, lost the men's doubles. Scores:—

M. Orlovski bt D. Surbek 22, 18.
J. Kunz bt Z. Kosanovic -11, 14, 7.
B. Silhanova bt E. Palatinus 16, 15.
Kunz/Orlovski bt D. Jurcic/Surbek 19, 17.
Orlovski/Silhanova lost to Surbek/Palatinus -17, 17, -9.
Orlovski bt Kosanovic 14, -20, 11.
Kunz bt Surbek 16, 18.

In Trier, on November 4, Federal Germany picked up two useful sets from visiting Sweden when Welbke Hendriksen had a noteworthy win over Ann-Christin Hellman followed by an equally praiseworthy effort from Wilfried Lieck and Peter Engel in beating Stellan Bengtsson and Ulf Thorsell. No less than six of the seven sets went into a deciding game. Scores:—

J. Leiss lost to S. Bengtsson -16, 8, -12.
W. Lieck lost to U. Thorsell 21, -18, -12.
W. Hendriksen bt A-C. Hellman -20, 18, 14.
P. Engel/Leiss bt Bengtsson/Thorsell 19, 11.
Lieck/Hendriksen lost to Bengtsson/Hellman -14, 9, -11.
Leiss lost to Thorsell -19, 14, -13.
Lieck lost to Bengtsson -17, 15, -19.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Hungary	3	3	0	12	9	3
France	3	2	1	15	6	2
Soviet Union	3	2	1	14	7	2
Sweden	3	2	1	13	8	2
Czechoslovakia	3	1	2	11	10	1
*Yugoslavia	3	1	2	9	12	1
Federal Germany	3	1	2	8	13	1
England	3	0	3	2	19	0

* Defending champions.

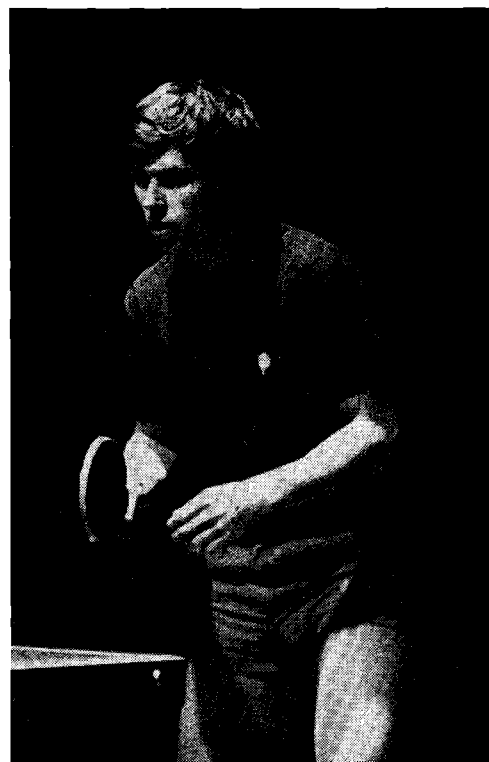
Both Belgium and Poland lost their unbeaten records in Division 1, the latter most surprisingly to Ireland who triumphed 4-3 in Wroclaw on November 4 after trailing 0-2.

Karen Senior sparked the revival with victory over Ewa Olek, thus inspiring Jim Langan and Kevin Keane to take the men's doubles followed by victory in the mixed for Langan and Miss Senior.

Stanislav Fraczyk then equated the match score with an easy win over Keane, leaving it for Ryszard Czochanski and Langan to settle the issue. This the Dubliner did to bring forth that captivating smile of the Irish non-playing captain, Josef Veselsky. Scores:—

S. Fraczyk bt J. Langan 14, 8.
R. Czochanski bt K. Keane 7, 10.
E. Olek lost to K. Senior -19, 16, -12.
Czochanski/A. Grubba lost to Keane/Langan -19, -18.
Czochanski/Olek lost to Langan/Senior -20, -12.
Fraczyk bt Keane 10, 14.
Czochanski lost to Langan -13, 12, -17.

Belgium's fall from grace occurred in Sofia when beaten 4-3, with Jean-Pierre Heinen failing to match the efforts of the indefatigable Norbert van de Walle, who won both his singles, the other coming from Marie-France Germinat in single combat over Emilia Neikova. Scores:—
D. Hasanov bt J-P. Heinen 13, 17.



Milan Orlovski, who had wins over Dragutin Surbek and Zoltan Kosanovic, of Yugoslavia, in Handlova.

P. Mitev lost to N. v.d. Walle -22, -17.
 E. Neikova lost to M-F. Germiot -17, -18.
 Hasanov/Mitev bt Heinan/v.d. Walle 11, 19.
 I. Stoianov/Neikova bt v.d. Walle/Germiot
 -12, 16, 18.
 Hasanov lost to v.d. Walle -9, 17, -13.
 Mitev bt Heinen 11, 19.

Austria, away to Greece, in Athens, lost the first set but thereafter ran way with matters to win 6-1. Scores:—

C. Priftis bt G. Müller 15, -14, 15.
 N. Kostopoulos lost to E. Amplatz -20, 22, -9.
 M. Louka-Kostopoulou lost to D. Fetter 8, -15, -17.
 E. Diakakis/Priftis lost to Amplatz/Müller -12, -18.
 Priftis/Louka-Kostopoulou lost to Müller/Fetter 17, -11, -18.
 Priftis lost to Amplatz 19, -18, -12.
 Kostopoulos lost to Müller -17, 15, -21.

But, following a 5-2 win away to Italy, the Netherlands take over the leadership by virtue of a superior sets average.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Netherlands	3	2	1	14	7	2
Austria	3	2	1	12	9	2
Belgium	3	2	1	12	9	2
Poland	3	2	1	12	9	2
Bulgaria	3	2	1	9	12	2
Ireland	3	1	2	10	11	1
Greece	3	1	2	7	14	1
Italy	3	0	3	8	13	0

Following their 4-3 win over Wales in Glasgow, Scotland lead **Division 2**, the only other unbeaten team being Luxembourg. Spain had a 4-3 win over Switzerland.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt
Scotland	2	2	0	9	5	2
Luxembourg	1	1	0	7	0	1
Spain	2	1	1	6	8	1
Wales	1	0	1	3	4	0
Switzerland	2	0	2	3	11	0

Fixtures for December 15 are:—

Super Division

Yugoslavia v Hungary
 France v Czechoslovakia
 Sweden v England
 Federal Germany v Soviet Union

Division 1

Netherlands v Greece
 Austria v Bulgaria
 Ireland v Italy
 Belgium v Poland

Division 2

Wales v Switzerland
 Spain v Luxembourg



Wiebke Hendriksen, of Federal Germany, who had a noteworthy win over Ann-Christin Hellman, of Sweden.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

In the quarter-finals of the **Europe Club Cup of Champions**, Ormesby have both their men's and women's teams engaged away to Federal German clubs. Ormesby men travel

to play **SV Reutlingen** on December 8, the likely opposition to be encountered comprising Peter Stellwag, Peter Engel and Manfred Baum. The women face up to Kaiserberg, Duisburg whose team includes Agnes Simon and Ursula Hirschmüller, two very experienced internationals. This match is scheduled for December 7.

Results to date:—

Men—Round 1
 SV Raiffeisen Kuchl (AU) 5, CTT Rapid Geneve (Ch) 1
 7 a 9 Barcelona (ES) 5, Palmeiras Lisboa (PO) 3
 CTT Rouillon (BE) 5, Central Glasgow (SC) 0
 AZS Gliwice (PL) 5, PTS Stiga Hyryla (FS) 3

Round 2
 GSTK Vjesnik Zagreb (Y) 5, SV Raiffeisen Kuchl 1
 Falkenburgs BTK (SW) 5, DT Schiffflange (LU) 3
 SV Reutlingen (G) 5, Olympiacos Piraeus (GR) 2
 Ormesby TTC (En) 5, 7 a 9 Barcelona 0
 BP Spartacus (HU) 5, AZS Gliwice 0
 AS Messine (Fr) 5, Akadamic Svichtov (BU) 0

Tempo Team (NE) 5, Vitamirella S Elpidio (IT) 4
 TJ Sparta Praha (CSR) 5, CTT Rouillon 0

Women—Round 1
 Olympiacos Piraeus (GR) 5, GBC Bari (IT) 1
 Capip Dommeldange (LU) 5, Row Rybnik (PL) 4
 31 Epitok Budapest (HU) 5, Boulogne Billancourt (FR) 1

Round 2
 Statisztika (HU) 5, Olympiacos Piraeus 1
 Delta Lloyd Amsterdam (NE) 5, ATSV Graz (AU) 1
 Palette Stave (BE) 5, Club Barcino (ES) 1
 Spartak Vlasim Praha (CSR) 5, Young Stars Zurich (CH) 0
 Kaiserberg Duisburg (G) 5, Capip Dommeldange 1
 Ormesby T.T.C. (EN) 5, Zero Copenhagen (DK) 3
 STK Mladost Zagreb (YU) 5, Akademic Sofia (BU) 0
 Verbergs BTK (SW) 5, 31 Epitok Budapest 3

ASIAN-AFRICAN-LATIN AMERICAN

In taking the two team titles and the men's and women's singles events in the **3rd Asian-African-Latin American Championships**, held in Mexico City over the period October 12-27, the People's Republic of China maintained their status as the premier country in world table tennis.

Granted the opposition, other than Japan, was not that likely to be encountered in Birmingham, but doubtless the Mexican public would benefit in gaining the knowledge of what life at the top is all about.

Results:—

Men's Team Event

Placings:—

1 China	9 Malaysia
2 Japan	10 Mexico
3 Indonesia	11 Trinidad & Tob.
4 Ghana	12 Paraguay
5 Nigeria	13 Brasil
6 Pakistan	14 Argentina
7 Egypt	15 Tunisia
8 Singapore	16 Peru

Women's Team Event

Placings:—

1 China	9 Mexico
2 Japan	10 Guyana
3 Nigeria	11 Egypt
4 Brasil	12 Singapore
5 Malaysia	13 Trinidad & Tob.
6 Laos	14 Ghana
7 Peru	15 Pakistan
8 Cuba	16 Jamaica

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Kua Yao-hua (China) bt Masahiro Machara (Japan) 15, 11, 16.
 Mitsuru Kohno (Japan) bt Lu Yuan-sheng (China) 15, 18, -19, 21.

Final

KUA YAO-HUA bt Kohno 13, -18, 18, 19.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Chang Li (China) bt Sachiko Yokota (Japan) 9, 7, 13.
 Huang Hsi-ping (China) bt Yang Kui-li (China) 22, 16, 19.

Final

CHANG LI bt Huang Hsi-ping 19, -17, 16, 21.

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Men's Doubles—Final
KATSUYUKI ABE/KOHO (Japan) bt
Peong Tah Seng/Soong Pah Wah (Malay-
si) 13, 19, 12.

Women's Doubles—Final
YUKIE OHZEKI/YOKATO (Japan) bt
Tomie Edano/Teruko Kuroko (Japan) -16,
16, 11, 19.

Mixed Doubles—Final
KINJI KOYAMA/KUROKO (Japan) bt
Liang Ko-Liang/Huang Hsi-ping (China)
-14, 13, 13, 15.

Boys' Singles—Final
LEE CHONG KEET (Malaysia) bt Munjarim
Saif (Pakistan) 17, 15, 11.

Girls' Singles—Final
SOUK PHA VANH (Laos) bt Josafina Sala-
zar (Peru) 9, 10, 14.

AFRICAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Players from Nigeria dominated the
African Championships, played in Cotonou
before 6,000 spectators. The championships
ended on October 3rd with the following
results:—

Men's Team
1, Nigeria; 2, Ghana; 3, Egypt; 4, Tunisia.

Women's Team
1, Nigeria; 2, Egypt; 3, Ghana; 4, Togo.

Men's Singles
K. Lassisi (Ni) bt F. Ayinde (Ni) -15, 17, -13,
19, 12.

Women's Singles
O. Majekodunmi (Ni) bt E. Jacks (Ni) 13,
-19, 12, -19, 12.

Men's Doubles
Galal/Sombol (Eg) bt Owusu/Quansah (Gh)
19, -19, -18, 12, 18.

Women's Doubles
Jacks/Majekodunmi bt Bagiga/Nahed (Eg)
20, 21, 16.

Mixed Doubles
Lassisi/Majekodunmi bt Quansah/Lampsey
(Gh) 13, -19, 9, 13.

Boys' Singles
Ajebantale Kuye (Ni) bt d'Almeida (To) -20,
20, 7.

Girls' Singles
Moussa Atanda (Ni) bt Wale Ariyibi (Ni)
20, -19, 19.



ALL SYSTEMS GO

To date 17 Associations have signified
their intention to enter the 4th Common-
wealth Championships due to take place
from March 16-22 at the Beau Sejour
Leisure Centre, Guernsey, Channel Isles.

The Championships are open to players
nominated by member associations affili-
ated to the I.T.T.F. whose territories are or
were formerly part of the British Common-
wealth.

Stiga table tennis tables (Expert VM),
Stiga nets (Clipper VM) and Nittaku 3-Star
balls will be used throughout the cham-
pionships.

EVENTS

Events comprise men's and women's
team, M.S., W.S., M.D., W.D. and X.D. In
addition, subject to the approval of the
Management Committee, men's and
women's consolation singles events will be
played.

The closing date for entries is January
14, 1977, and the draw for all events will
take place in Guernsey on January 20. The
seeding list will be prepared by the Classifi-
cation Committee, which comprises D.
George, Esq. (Scotland), Dr. A. Efunkoya
(Nigeria) and A. Werler, Esq. (Canada).

The Biennial General Meeting will be held
at the Beau Sejour Leisure Centre on March
17. Each association may be represented by
two delegates, only one of whom may vote.

PACKAGE DEALS

Those not entitled to free hospitality but
who wish to enjoy the same "package" and
stay at the same hotel as their team may
do so for the sum of 280 Swiss francs.

Alternatively, for those who prefer to stay
at a different hotel from their team, special
"package" deals have been negotiated with
the Old Government House Hotel—one of
the island's most famous establishments.
Those wishing to avail themselves of
"package" deals are urged to make imme-
diate communication with the Organising
Secretary, Horace Mallett, Esq., Bracken-
hurst, Les Hubits, St. Martin's, Guernsey,
Channel Islands. 'Phone: Guernsey 38972.

SHORT STAY VISITORS

Some people may not be staying in
Guernsey for the full duration of the
Championships. They should apply, in
writing, to the Organising Secretary for
tickets to attend the table tennis play, the
sightseeing tour or the "farewell party".
They must, however, make their own
arrangements for accommodation and
meals. Recommended hotels are:—

Old Government House Hotel, St. Peter
Port.

Moore's Hotel, St. Peter Port.
St. Margaret's Lodge Hotel, Forest.

For a brochure giving details of all
accommodation available in Guernsey,
write to the Tourist Information Bureau,
P.O. Box 23, Guernsey, C.I.

TRAVEL

It is strongly recommended that those
intending to come to Guernsey should book
their travel arrangements as early as possi-
ble, particularly the United Kingdom—
Guernsey leg. It may be considerably
cheaper to book air travel to Guernsey from
the original point of departure. Alterna-
tively, associations may find it more con-
venient to allow Wayfarers—the 34th World
Championships' travel agents—to make the
necessary arrangements.

TOURNAMENT TICKETS

Persons staying in Guernsey on "package"
deals will automatically receive a season
ticket entitling them to admission to all
sessions of play. The general tariff for
tickets is:—

Season Ticket	£5.00
All Day Ticket	£1.25
Ordinary Session Ticket (i.e., morning, afternoon or evening)50
Final Session Ticket	£2.00

Tickets are obtainable from the Organising
Secretary on application.

NEW ADDRESSES

Diane (Rowe) Schöler is now located at
Josef-Kuchen Strasse 11, 4044 Kaarst
2/Holzbüttgen, and Aubrey Simons at Flat 6,
3 Apsley Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2SH
('Phone: Bristol 39019).

Brian Burn, the former England Trainer/
Coach, is now in residence at 319 University
of Petroleum and Minerals, Dhahran, Saudi
Arabia, and Alan Lindsay has moved to
Flat 3, 24 Montpellier Road, Ealing, London,
W5.

NEWCOMER

Sue and Colin Henderson are proud to
introduce to you someone very sweet and
new . . . Scott Anthony, born on Sunday,
October 17, weight 6 lbs. 13 ozs. Address:—
51 Strathcona Avenue, Little Bookham,
Surrey.

Cover Photograph

Chris Rogers, Leicestershire's No. 8
ranked English Junior boy, now represent-
ing his County in the Premier Division of
the County Table Tennis Championships.

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LANCASHIRE AFFAIRS

by Geo. R. Yates

MANCUNIAN CELEBRATION

The Manchester and District T.T. League celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a Supper-Dance at Belle Vue's Kendal Suite, where proceedings were genially presided over by Leslie Cohen.

In his speech, tracing the history of the M. & D. T.T.L., Les began by saying—"Winston Churchill said there were only two things more difficult than making a speech, climbing a wall that's leaning towards you and kissing a girl who is leaning away from you".

But, nothing daunted, Les went on to hold his audience captive by recalling past deeds of such notable players and characters as Cliffe Cooke, Stan Proffitt, Andy Miller, Hymie Lurie, Freddie Cromwell, "Dibbs" Davies, Ken Stanley, Benny Casofsky and Jeff Ingber, amongst others.

Officials, too, past and present, were recalled in the persons of Harold Oldroyd (E.T.T.A. President from 1931 to 1953), Jack Swann, Jack Siddron, Herbert Bunbury, Sydney Richardson, Jack Batty, Bert Sutcliffe, Harry Miles, Harry Jones, and dear departed Jack Livingstone, not forgetting, of course, the present secretary, Albert Coakley, and Leslie Jones. And, not to be overlooked, former Hon. Treasurer, that lovable Dickensian character, "Pop" Marsden, who counted every half-penny.

Competition for a place in a Manchester team was such that being picked for England might easily coincide with being dropped by Manchester. Such was the state of affairs in the 30's. The toast was to the future success of the Manchester and District T.T. League.

Burnley's 50th Anniversary celebrations took the form of an exhibition given by the England international Squad at the William Thompson Recreation Centre, which went down extremely well. It was good to meet up again with former Lancashire Chairman, Tom Alston who, in turn, dug back a little into affairs in the East Lancs. township when such notables as George Livesey and Jack Keogh were at their peak. On both occasions the writer, in his capacity as the E.T.T.A.'s Deputy Chairman and Lancs. T.T.A. President, responded on behalf of the guests.

In the Bolton area Mr. D. D. Plowes, the Personnel Manager at Hawker Siddeley Dynamics, Lostock, has instigated a scheme bent on producing top class players. In charge of the coaching and training is Brian Kean, the administrator being Ian E. Campbell, Hon. Sec. of the Mid-Lancs. League.

My picture, by courtesy of H.S.D. (Lostock), shows centre (from left) bespectacled Mr. Plowes, Peter Simpson (England's Trainer/Coach), myself and Ian Campbell. The players are from Bolton, Bury, Wigan and the mid-Lancashire area. Training sessions, under the eagle eye of Brian Kean, are held three times per week.



Letters to the Editor



NO CONCERN

I was both surprised and shocked, on reading John Pike's "Profile" on Desmond Douglas. Whatever has happened to that "Nice guy" Des Douglas? Has success gone to his head? Since becoming England's No. 1, it appears to have turned his head. The efforts involved in reaching this exalted position, appears to have brought the worst and not the best out of him.

The remarks made on another top table tennis player's parents fill me with dismay coming from a "sportsman" who has reached the pinnacle of his chosen sport. His remarks were both ungentlemanly and offensive to Mr. and Mrs. Day. I should think that, by now, Mr. Douglas has had time to reflect on his "unsporting remarks" and on reflection now considers that apologies should be made to the parents of Paul Day, who were extremely hurt and offended when reading Mr. Douglas's words.

For Mr. Douglas's information, both Mr. and Mrs. Day have, for about eight years, encouraged their son, Paul, and many other young players in Soham, and Cambridgeshire, to play table tennis at all levels, even to the extent of allowing the use of a large

hut as a place in which youngsters can practice on two tables supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Day. The service to Table Tennis by this family is incalculable.

Contrary to the belief that Mr. and Mrs. Day are "well off", they are, in fact, a working family and any money they may or may not have, they have had to work hard for. It is of no concern to Mr. Douglas, or for that matter, anyone else, as to how Mr. and Mrs. Day use their hard-earned cash. Surely it is theirs to do with as they see fit. Their only "crime" is that they wish to support Table Tennis, and their son, in the only way they can, by making sure that Paul gets the benefit of the experience of training methods, when asked to attend training camps by the E.T.T.A.

PATRICK J. O'BRYNE,
Cambs. Umpires' Secretary.

52 Kimberley Road,
Cambridge, CB4 1HH.

NOT A 1-STAR

With this country in such a mess, I should think the last thing the Prime Minister wants to get involved with is what tables we are going to use at the World Championships next March. By the time the big event gets under way, I doubt whether Mrs. Thatcher will worry too much if we use Stiga or Jaques. The Editor and John Woodford were both so right in what they said in last month's "Table Tennis News", for let us remember, this is not a 1-star tournament we are organising, and letters to No. 10 will do nothing to change the decision that has already been made.

JOHN PIKE.

15 Glendale Drive,
Wombourne,
Staffs.

EXCELLENT WORK

I feel that congratulations are in order to the Chairman of the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme, Gordon Steggall, and the professional coaching staff, for their "COACHING MANUAL" Stage 1 production.

It is a must for anyone connected with the coaching of beginners and juniors at the intermediate stages of development. I believe that anyone, at whatever stage of coaching, can learn something from this excellent work.

The Manual is the result of three or four years really hard work on the part of Gordon and the staff coaches, and it seems destined to become the bible for all students of the game who wish to become first class coaches.

JOHN DIGGENS,
E.T.T.A. Diploma Coach and
Guildford Coaching Organiser.

32 Addison Road,
Guildford,
Surrey.

Pontin's Winner

Steve Lyons, of 41 Skiffington Close, Tullis Hill, London, picked up a £200 Cash Voucher and Pontin Holiday for 1977 as winner of the Pontin Southern Area Finals, played at Brean Sands Holiday Village, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset. In attendance at the finals were former English international, Chester Barnes, Mr. Graham Parr, Camp Manager, and Walter E. Rowley, Public Relations and Marketing Executive, Pontin's Ltd.

PLEASE NOTE: OWING TO THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD JANUARY'S EDITION OF 'TABLE TENNIS NEWS' WILL BE ISSUED LATER THAN USUAL.



Scottish News

By DENIS GEORGE

TABLE-TOPPERS

European League

Pride of place this month goes to the fact that Scotland top Division II by virtue of a 4-3 win over Wales on Guy Fawkes Night. The match was played at the Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow, before an enthusiastic crowd. It was a keenly-contested game as all matches with Wales are; Richard Yule, although playing competently and winning both of his singles and the mixed doubles with Patrice Fleming, is still not showing his true form yet this season. Patrice also won her singles and the mixed doubles with Patrice Fleming, is still not showing his true form yet this season. Patrice also won her singles to maintain a 100% record in European League matches. John McNee lost his sets, his form suffering a bit of reaction after his Spanish Open victory.

Results:—

R. Yule bt G. Griffiths 19, 14.
J. McNee lost to A. Griffiths 16, -11, -12.
P. Fleming bt J. Ralphs 14, 16.
Yule/McNee lost to Griffiths/Davies -19, 16, -11.
Yule/Fleming bt Davies/Ralphs 17, 19.
Yule bt Griffiths 12, 16.
McNee lost to Davies -10, 17, -9.

SCOTLAND 4, WALES 3

S.T.T.A. Inter-League Team Competition, Edinburgh, October 16.

This is an annual event when teams representing all affiliated leagues meet in three categories to decide in one long day's play who will be the season's champions. For the second year in succession it was "all change" and none of last year's champions retained their titles. After not featuring in 1st or 2nd place in any category last year, West of Scotland (Glasgow) reasserted themselves by winning the Men's and Junior titles; they played arch-rivals Edinburgh in both Finals. Archie McCulloch was in good form to win his three in West's 5-3 win in the Men's event and in spite of the West playing Scotland's No. 1 Junior—Tom Devers—in the senior series, their Juniors were still good enough to win 5-1.

The young Stirlingshire Women's team of Carole Dalrymple (13) and Eleanor Hardy (15), who represented Scotland as Cadets in this summer's European Youth Championships, won the Women's title, beating Edinburgh in the vital group match with Carole beating Grace McKay 17 and 12.

North of Scotland Open, Aberdeen, October 23.

Star of the day was Devers, who rose to the heights to lift the Men's Singles crown, a remarkable achievement for the No. 8 seed. While on the Junior front, Kenneth McLean upset all the odds to take the title without dropping a game. Alan Matthew and Russell Brown, both, in spite of their respective No. 1 and 2 seeding, failed to reach even the semi-finals of the singles, but atoned admirably by confirming themselves as one of Scotland's top doubles duos by retaining the North Doubles title. Mabel Neish (Dundee) was the surprise packet in the Women's Singles, she trounced Patrice Fleming in the semi-finals, then just failed against Grace McKay in the Final.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

T. Devers bt J. Wilson 10, 13.

R. Kerr bt J. O'Neil 7, 13.

Final

DEVERS bt Kerr 11, 19.

Women's Singles—Final

G. McKay bt M. Neish -15, 18, 20.

Open Doubles—Final

A. MATTHEW/R. BROWN bt J. Moir/A. Majid 13, 17.

Junior Singles—Final

K. McLEAN bt Devers 18, 21.

Midlands Open, Dundee, November 6.

With Yule, McNee and Forker absent, the Men's Singles was wide open. As it turned out it was Archie McCulloch's day—he went through the field beating Jim O'Neil (Lanark), John Wilson (Glasgow) and finally Bert Kerr to take the title. Patrice Fleming continued the good form of the previous evening against Wales to win the Women's Singles title from Grace McKay.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

A. McCulloch bt J. Wilson -16, 15, 13.

R. Kerr bt J. Graham 19, -18, 15.

Final

A. McCULLOCH bt R. Kerr 16, 11.

Women's Singles—Final

P. FLEMING bt G. McKay -19, 14, 17.

Men's Doubles—Final

A. MATTHEWS/R. BROWN bt McCulloch/

A. Watson 18, 16.

Women's Doubles—Final

FLEMING/McKAY bt M. Neish/D. Quin -17, 16, 10.

Junior Boys' Singles—Final

K. RODGER bt M. Wallace 15, 20.

Junior Girls' Singles—Final

C. DALRYMPLE bt E. Hardy 13, 20.

Cadet Boys' Singles—Final

A. DAVIDSON bt D. Paton 21, -21, 18.

Cadet Girls' Singles—Final

C. DALRYMPLE bt F. Corrigan.

Mixed Doubles—Final

BROWN/McKAY bt Wilson/Fleming 18, -10, 23.

CONTROVERSY

JOHN WOODFORD

DEPUTY TABLE TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
DAILY TELEGRAPH

MR. BUCKLE'S SILENT RETREAT . . .

The Big Storm over the tables for Birmingham seems to have blown over, leaving silent blue skies and leaving quite a few people a little wiser how to avoid such troubles in the future.

It would seem that the complainant was hoping by this time to be actively engaged in his second assault, reinforced by a lot of independent support. My search for these "furious" England players ended without finding any and this was confirmed by the letter in last month's "Table Tennis News" from the Chairman and the Secretary of P.A.T.T.

Many followers of our sport must be left wondering whether there were any other motives behind Mr. Buckle's action other than patriotism. Just occasionally, individuals do meet with success when they take on the Establishment, the most recent example is John Tyne's blocking of motorway schemes.

But the difference is that Mr. Tyne's moves are very carefully planned with all kinds of professional assistance. Mr. Buckle seems to have dived in on his own at the deepest end of a large pool without making sure that others would support him.

Assuming he made it to the side of the pool, I would endorse the feelings of the National Council that Mr. Buckle could still salvage something by making some statement in the form of a retraction or even an apology.

What's On this month & next

1976

- Dec. 4—County Championships (4).
- 5—Middlesex U-15 Open (Edmonton, London).
- 11/12—WAYFARERS ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED (Reading).
- 15—Sweden v England (European League).
- 17—Norwich Union Trophy (Howe Bridge).
- 18—Norwich Union Invitation (Howe Bridge)
- 18/19—Yorkshire Junior Select (Hull).

1977

- Jan. 2—International Club Hard Bat Open (Barnet).
- 2—Lincolnshire 1-Star Junior Open (North Hykeham, Lincoln).
- 6/8—NORWICH UNION INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS (Thornaby Pavilion).
- 9—World Championships Pre-Qualifying Open (Thornaby Pavilion).
- 9—Winton Y.M.C.A. 1-Star Open (Winton, Bournemouth).
- 15—County Championships (5).
- 15—Edinburgh 2-Star Open.
- 19—England v Czechoslovakia (Horwich Leisure Centre, Bolton).
- 22—National Council Meeting.
- 22—Pontefract 1-Star Open.
- 22/23—Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
- 23—E.S.T.A. Regional Finals.
- 23—West of Scotland 2-Star Open (Glasgow).
- 29—Edinburgh Junior and Youth 2-Star Open.
- 29—County Championships (6).
- 29/30—Cotswold Junior 2-Star Open (Gloucester).



SCOTLAND—(L to r) John McNee, Patrice Fleming, Richard Yule and John Braithwaite (n.p.c.).

Photo by John Elder.

County Championships Fixtures

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS FIXTURES — JANUARY

Premier	
Jan. 2	Cleveland v Leicestershire.
9	Cleveland v Essex.
15	Essex v Yorkshire—Valley Way Y.C., 50 Loughton Way, Buckhurst Hill, 7-00 p.m.
	Middlesex v Warwickshire.
29	Surrey v Cheshire—Bellfields Y.C., Guildford, 7-15 p.m.
	Leicestershire v Yorkshire.
	Warwickshire v Surrey.
2nd South	
Jan. 15	Hampshire v Essex II—St. James' Institute, Stourfield Road, Fishers Walk, Bournemouth, 6-30 p.m.
29	Hampshire v Surrey II—T.T. Centre, Essex Road, Basingstoke, 7-00 p.m.
	Kent v Middlesex II—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 7-00 p.m.
	Sussex v Essex II.
2nd North	
Jan. 29	Lancashire v Durham.
	Northumberland v Lincolnshire.
	Yorkshire II v Cleveland II—Moor Grange School, Parkstone Avenue, Leeds, 2-30 p.m.
2nd Midland	
Jan. 29	Derbyshire v Glamorgan—Rolls Royce Sports Club, Derby, 7-00 p.m.
	Staffordshire v Cheshire II.
	Warwickshire II v Clwyd.
2nd East	
Jan. 29	Buckinghamshire v Cambridgeshire.
	Norfolk v Bedfordshire.
30	Northamptonshire v Hertfordshire—H. W. Chapman Ltd. Canteen, Irthingboro Road, Wellingborough, 7-00 p.m.
2nd West	
Jan. 15	Gwent v Somerset.
	Worcestershire v Wiltshire.
16	Berkshire v Avon.
29	Gwent v Avon.
	Somerset v Devon—Sherbourne West End Club, Sherbourne, 7-00 p.m.
	Worcestershire v Berkshire.
3rd South	
Jan. 29	Essex III v Sussex II—Mid-Essex Transport, Goldhanger Road, Heybridge, Maldon, 7-00 p.m.
	Hertfordshire III v Bedfordshire—Howard Hall, Norton Way, Letchworth, 6-30 p.m.
	Kent II v Buckinghamshire II—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 7-30 p.m.
3rd North	
Jan. 15	Cumbria v Lancashire II—Millom School, 4-30 p.m.
29	Northumberland II v Derbyshire II
	Nottinghamshire v Cleveland III.
3rd Midland	
Jan. 29	Clwyd II v Northamptonshire II.
	Glamorgan II v Leicestershire II.
	Shropshire v Staffordshire II—Rodington Village Hall, Shrewsbury, 6-00 p.m.
3rd East	
Jan. 15	Hertfordshire II v Norfolk II—Howard Hall, Norton Way, Letchworth, 6-30 p.m.
21	Avon II v Gloucestershire.
29	Suffolk v Cambridgeshire II—The Dome, Defoe Road, Ipswich, 6-30 p.m.
3rd West	
Jan. 15	Herefordshire v Worcestershire II.
29	Dorset v Cornwall.
Junior Premier	
Jan. 15	Essex v Yorkshire.
	Centre, Green Lane, Braughing, Ware, 2-30 p.m.
	Hertfordshire v Cleveland—Braughing Sports & Social Middlesex v Berkshire.
	Surrey v Kent.
29	Berkshire v Yorkshire.
	Cleveland v Essex.
	Kent v Middlesex—Milton Barracks, Waterloo Street, Gravesend, 2-30 p.m.
	Surrey v Hertfordshire.
Junior 2nd South	
Jan. 15	Berkshire II v Sussex—South of England Building Society, King Street, Maidenhead, 3-00 p.m.
	Devon v Surrey II.
	Dorset v Kent II.
	Hampshire v Middlesex II—St. James' Institute, Stourfield Road, Fishers Walk, Bournemouth, 2-30 p.m.
29	Berkshire II v Devon—South of England Building Society, King Street, Maidenhead, 3-00 p.m.
	Dorset v Sussex.
	Middlesex II v Kent II.
	Surrey II v Hampshire.
Junior 2nd North	
Jan. 15	Clwyd v Cleveland II.
	Cumbria v Lancashire—Millom School, Millom, 1-00 p.m.
	Northumberland v Derbyshire.
	Yorkshire II v Durham—St. Mary's Church Hall, South Emsall, Pontefract, 2-30 p.m.
29	Cleveland II v Yorkshire II.
	Clwyd v Cumbria.
	Derbyshire v Durham—Rolls Royce Sports Club, Derby, 2-30 p.m.
	Lancashire v Northumberland.
Junior 2nd Midland	
Jan. 15	Essex II v Suffolk.
	Leicestershire v Cambridgeshire.
	Norfolk v Staffordshire.
16	Northamptonshire v Warwickshire—Recreation Centre, Northampton Road, Kettering, 2-30 p.m.
29	Essex II v Norfolk.
	Staffordshire v Warwickshire.
30	Northamptonshire v Leicestershire—H. W. Chapman Ltd. Canteen, Irthingborough Road, Wellingborough, 5-00 p.m.
Junior 3rd South	
Jan. 29	Essex III v Sussex II.
	Hampshire II v Hertfordshire II—T.T. Centre, Essex Road, Basingstoke, 3-00 p.m.
Junior 3rd North	
Jan. 15	Cheshire v Cumbria II.
	Clwyd II v Cleveland II.
	Nottinghamshire v Lincolnshire.
Junior 3rd Midland	
Jan. 22	Worcestershire v Oxfordshire.
23	Herefordshire v Gloucestershire.
29	Shropshire v Staffordshire II—Rodington Village Hall, Rodington, Shrewsbury, 3-00 p.m.
Junior 3rd East	
Jan. 29	Buckinghamshire v Cambridgeshire II.
	Huntingdonshire v Lincolnshire II.
Junior 3rd West	
Jan. 15	Cornwall v Wiltshire.
	Glamorgan v Avon.
	Somerset v Gwent—Westland Helicopters Ltd., Weston-super-Mare, 3-00 p.m.

Veteran Midland
Jan. 15—Leicestershire v Clwyd.
Nottinghamshire v Cheshire.
Warwickshire v Clwyd II.

Veteran East
Jan. 29—Essex II v Kent—Japan Road School, Chadwell Heath, 7-00 p.m.
Hertfordshire v Essex—Barnet T.T. Centre, Barnet Lane 7-30 p.m.
Middlesex v Huntingdonshire.

Veteran West
Jan. 15—Dorset v Oxfordshire.
Wiltshire v Worcestershire.

7th NISSEN INVITATION TOURNAMENT

SHOCKS FOR HOLDERS

by Geo. R. Yates

Both Denis Neale and Jill Hammersley, bidding for their fourth consecutive titles in the annual Nissen Invitation event, at Sale Leisure Centre, Cheshire, on November 12, lost their hold in gripping final encounters which held a full house fully engrossed.

In the men's event **Desmond Douglas** reasserted his authority, after being deposed of his national No. 1 ranking by Neale, when beating the newly-crowned "king" in a final encounter which brought the Warwickshire star a cheque for £125.

Prior to this Neale had made short work of the Welsh No. 1, Alan Griffiths, but was harder put to in disposing of the challenge of Nicky Jarvis, who had a good win over Paul Day. Douglas was completely untroubled in ousting Donald Parker, a late substitute for Andrew Barden, and Jimmy Walker, who had eliminated the Scottish No. 1, Richard Yule.

Jill Hammersley gave no indication of the troubles that were to beset her in the final when ousting Carole Knight, but by the manner in which **Linda Howard** disposed of Susan Lisle, a keenly-contested final was envisaged.

And so it proved as the Surrey bank clerk, playing throughout the evening with measured precision, got home, but narrowly, in two tense games. One has to go back some four or five seasons for Linda's last victory over the current English and European champion, gained at a Southend Open. But her victory at Sale was fully deserved, as was that of Douglas. Scores:—

Men

Round 1

D. Douglas (Wa) bt D. Parker (La) 13, 14.
J. Walker (Cv) bt R. Yule (Sc) 16, 19.
D. Neale (Cv) bt A. Griffiths (Wa) 17, 13.
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt P. Day (Ca) 14, -10, 17.

Semi-finals

Douglas bt Walker 10, 16.
Neale bt Jarvis 14, 20.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Neale -18, 19, 12.

Women

Semi-finals

J. Hammersley (Bu) bt C. Knight (Cv) 11, 19.

L. Howard (Sy) bt S. Lisle (Ch) 10, 12.

Final

HOWARD bt Hammersley 20, 19.

— Tickets —

Tickets for the European League Super Division match England versus Czechoslovakia, to be played at Horwich Leisure Centre, Bolton, on Wednesday, January 19, 1977 (7-15 p.m.), are now available from G. Southworth, Esq., 86 Hill Lane, Blackrod, Bolton. (Phone: Horwich 691883). Prices—£1.50, £1.00 and 50p S.A.E. please with remittance.

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COUNTY NOTES
SUPPLEMENT

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman



Essex Juniors' line-up before their 9-1 win over Surrey. Back row (l to r): Stuart Kimm, Dave Newman and Leon Smith. Front (l to r): Elaine Sayer and Helen Gore. Photo by Geoff Newman

GREAT FILLIP

The second round of County matches gave us a great fillip with six wins and one draw from the seven matches played. Our senior team pipped Middlesex 5-4 with Lesley Radford scoring what proved to be a vital win over Angela Mitchell, this, together with the mixed doubles and a singles apiece from the men, was enough to get us home.

The senior second team proved to be the real high flyers, smashing Middlesex II 9-1, and with a spirit and energy that left no one in any doubt that their intentions are to win the divisional title. Ably led by the incomparable Stuart Gibbs, David Iszatt, Kevin Caldon, Shelagh Hession and Linda Budd are to be congratulated on a very fine performance. Our third team started where they left off last season, winning comfortably at Bucks 9-1.

The Junior Premier team crushed a Shuttle-less Surrey 9-1, while the second team returned with a point from Staffordshire, Kenny Jackson taking the honours here. Against Bucks II our Junior third team won in a canter 10-0 and our Veterans' second team also had a comfortable 6-3 victory over Hertfordshire.

With a number of matches to be played in the next few weeks it looks as if all our players are in for a very busy time.

The Southend League have just staged a very successful Open Tournament sponsored by the Midland Bank, results of which will no doubt be shown elsewhere in this maga-

zine. Tournament Organiser, Mike Watts, and Referee Gordon Lightfoot, can be well pleased with a tournament that ran without a hitch and to a strict time schedule. It was nice to see young Andrew Bawden, at present unable to play owing to a bad back injury, still bright and cheerful and working very hard at the control table.

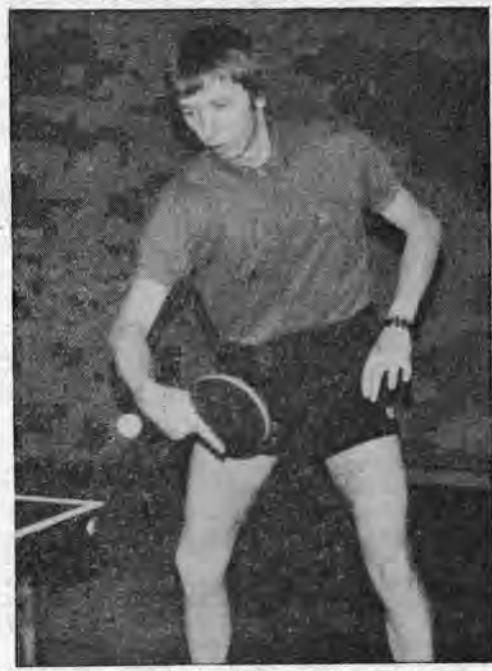
I told you that the Southend League were celebrating their 50th Anniversary during 1977. Dates have been arranged between September 25 and October 1, and will include a match against the International Club and a match against a touring German team. A team tournament will take place on the last day as well as a Celebration Dance and Dinner for Executive and Old Members to attend.

Our Essex Leagues programme is now well under way and this very popular championship affords all our member leagues to meet each other during the course of the season.

An item from the Becontree League "News Sheet" brought a smile. It reads—"Our friends from Gascoigne pointed out that they did not particularly like the idea of playing their matches in only dark-coloured shirt and rubber-soled shoes, as stated in Rule 17 (Clothing)—SPOIL SPORTS! However, to prevent any embarrassment that may be caused by the wording of this rule, may we request all players to include in their equipment a pair of shorts or skirt, as the case may be. Mind you, we've yet to come across anyone who has taken this rule literally". I always thought that Len Carroll was a dark horse!

Most of the news from around our leagues is encouraging with league competitions all going well.

Romford are another league to concentrate on their youngsters and they have arranged Coaching facilities at Chaffords Sports Centre, Rainham, every Sunday afternoon.



Stuart Gibbs making a welcome return to the County scene as skipper of the Essex 2nd team. Recent results show that he is still a force to be reckoned with.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

DAGENHAM OPEN (DECEASED)

"I recently received from the Dagenham League a copy of a letter sent by them to the Chairman of the E.T.T.A. They requested me to publish the letter in full. Events have now overtaken the matter covered by the letter and no useful purpose would be served to do so".

"I am, like most of the Essex table tennis fraternity, both angry and sad for Dagenham because of the way they have been treated in regard to their Open event. The affair marks a deplorable chapter in ineptitude and lack of consideration on the part of the E.T.T.A. Here is a brief summary. Firstly they allotted the date for the Dagenham event to the Norwich Union English Championships. Next they gave Dagenham's only feasible alternative date to accommodate the Cleveland 3-Star Open. Finally, the E.T.T.A. diary did not show the Dagenham open on any date.

"The Essex Association wrote to the E.T.T.A. protesting about their own event and also on behalf of Dagenham. Subsequently Dagenham wrote the letter of protest mentioned above, a very strong protest, and informed the Association also that because of the treatment they had received there would be no Dagenham Open this season.

"At the time of going to press I understand that the National Council have considered the matter and will offer Dagenham a full apology. Although Dagenham may consider this outcome scant consolation for the loss of their event, it may result in a more favourable effect on a broader scale. It does no harm for the governing body to be reminded, forcibly if need be, that they exist to serve table tennis at all levels.

"To coin a phrase—of the people, by the people, for the people".

The foregoing constitutes the Editorial in the November issue of "Scimitar", the official magazine of the Essex T.T.A.—Ed.



Shelagh Hession, women's singles winner at Hastings and Southend. At present Shelagh is a member of the Essex 2nd team, despite a National ranking of No. 5. Lesser mortals might have cocked a snook at the Essex selectors—not so our Shelagh who played in the recent match against Middlesex II with boundless enthusiasm and encouraging younger members of the team all the way. A magnificent asset to her County in every way.

Photo by Geoff Newman.

We wish all our readers
a Happy Christmas and a
Prosperous New Year

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

HONOURS EVEN

The early County Championship matches are now behind us, with honours even—three wins and three defeats. The distribution of success is hopefully significant, with all the winning performances coming from the Juniors, while the Seniors, with the exception of Anne Wallis and Connie Bane, have made little headway against strong opposition, giving the selectors a clear indication that the present coaching and squad training techniques have arrived too late on the scene, but nevertheless could well be the prelude to a successful future.

One of the current successes, Keith Nicoll, was surprisingly ignored in the recent Cadet Ranking Lists, but gave the National Selectors a sharp rebuke at the Middlesex Junior Tournament, by repeating wins over the nationally-ranked Nos. 4 and 5, Mark Oakley and Steven Young, and must force his way into the reckoning in the immediate future.

The five member leagues in the County have entered a record number of 15 teams in the South East Midlands League this season, with Towcester making a welcome first appearance in the Men's Division, and Daventry doing likewise in the Veterans' section. The latter made a winning debut at Ely, with John Aspinall, using his previous experience in this competition with Northampton and Kettering to good effect, as he reeled off a superb treble, while Roy Tanton and Bob Samy shared the other points between them. Daventry were not so fortunate in the Men's Division, for despite a double from John Bishop, and one win each for Alan Print and Peter Harris, North Herts 'B' just got the better of the exchanges. Although Northampton and Wellingborough field sides packed with talent, the most likely winners of a S.E.M.L. title could well be Kettering's Juniors, who have got off to a fine start with three victories in a row.

The County League is again under way, with Kettering's quintet of John Palmer, Dennis Millman, Terry Sutton, Keith Nicoll and Anne Wallis endeavouring to hold on to the honours gained last year. With Glennis Hooper deputising for Miss Wallis, Kettering made a good start with a 10 sets to 1 defeat of Towcester, while Northampton's match with Daventry was postponed. Northampton did, however, make a winning start when Wellingborough, playing for the first time since the League's reconstitution, provided the opposition. Wellingborough's Gary Alden won his two singles, while Paul Birch replied in similar vein for Northampton, but in the remaining matches Northampton had the edge and ran out winners by 7 sets to 4, after trailing at one stage 1-3.

The League season is now in full swing, with last season's winners all likely to retain their titles. John Palmer, in the Kettering League, and Gary Alden, in the Wellingborough League, look much too good for the likely opposition and should ensure repeat successes for Kettering Town and Rothborough, although the latter could well have difficulty in holding off a strong challenge from Compton Nomads, led by a rejuvenated Phil Snelling.

In the Northampton League, the experienced Colin Hogg and John Palmer, together with John Goodall, who has started the season in brilliant form, should enable UTC 'A' to withstand the pressure exerted by Compton, Roadmenders and YMCA, and so take yet another title.

The first County Rankings for the season were recently issued, but contained few surprises. The leading players are as follows:—

Men
1, Gary Alden (W); 2, Rod Marchant (W); 3, Steve Lyon (N); 4, Gary Hamilton (N); 5, John Palmer (K); 6, Phil Snelling (N);

7, Brian Dangerfield (W); 8, Graham Feakin (W); 9, Paul Birch (N); 10, Alan Print (D); 11, Ron Dunkley (T); 12, Romano Gallo (N).

Women

1, Anne Wallis (W); 2, Connie Bane (N); 3, Valerie Feakin (K); 4, Mandy Wallis (W); 5, Christine Price (W); 6, Joyce Porter (N); 7, Margaret Malby (N); 8, Dorothy Marsh (W); 9, Glennis Hooper (O); 10, Doris Rivett (N).

Boys

1, Alden; 2, Gallo; 3, Keith Nicoll (K); 4, Tim Forster (N); 5, Ian Morris (N); 6, Kenneth Nicoll (K); 7, Stuart Rollings (K); 8, Tim Chamberlain (N); 9, Neil Knatt (N); 10, Alan Hawes (W); 11, Mark Raven (W); 12, Richard Malfait (N); 13, Graham Ball (K).

Girls

1, Feakin; 2, Wallis; 3, Helen Cottier (N); 4, Francis Tsow (D); 5, Julie Robinson (N); 6, Joanne Cutler (N); 7, Marcia Bane (N).

Cadet Boys

1, Keith Nicoll; 2, Ken Nicoll; 3, Knatt; 4, Malfait; 5, Terry Cardwell (K); 6, John Nuttall (N); 7, Graham Carter (K).

Cadet Girls

1, Cutler; 2, Bane; 3, Jane Nicoll (K); 4, Jane Wallis (W).

KEY: D — Daventry; K — Kettering; N — Northampton; T — Towcester; W — Wellingborough.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

GRIM START

No joy has been forthcoming from our County team who have made a grim start in this season's County Championships. The senior team consisting of Alan Lamprell, Tim Speller, Len Saywell, Diana Bushby and Barbara Pace, played hosts to Hertfordshire II at the new St. Neots Centre on November 6. A fine match in this magnificent new venue saw Hunts go down 3-7. An indication of the closeness of this encounter is shown that in a match of almost a thousand points only nineteen separated the two teams. Lamprell and Speller each took a singles whilst Barbara Pace celebrated her recall by overhauling the opposite No. 2, J. Rogers. Not a match for faint hearts, but seeing the visitors win no fewer than four games at 18 or above in the decider, was a bit hard to swallow. However, all credit to Herts, who gained the right result.

Scores (Hunts names first):—
T. Speller lost to S. Proffitt -20, 19, -21.
A. Lamprell lost to B. White 9, -10, -19.
L. Saywell lost to J. Bender -18, -17.
D. Bushby/B. Pace lost to B. Peters/J. Rogers 20, -9, -18.
Speller/Lamprell lost to Proffitt/Bender -19, -24.
Pace bt Rogers 21, 16.
Lamprell bt Proffitt 18, 13.
Bushby lost to Peters 20, -18, -19.
Saywell lost to White -18, -17.
Speller bt Bender 20, -18, 18.

Before leaving the senior team, our present County champion, Jean Allinson, who has been a regular member of our County teams, has now left Peterborough and will this term be turning out in Cambridgeshire colours. Our loss is undoubtedly their gain.

The Juniors travelled to Luton for their opening encounter against Bedfordshire. Belinda Chamberlain and Melanie Ringrose won all three sets they were involved in. Hunts found no further success as the boys failed to notch up a single point. Mark Fisher, promoted to top place in the boys' rankings, was involved in a fine set against his counterpart, Martin Harlow, the latter winning at deuce in the decider.

Mark is undoubtedly pushing for a senior outing, which could come in the not too distant future. Hunts lost this match 3-7 and this was the same result as obtained by the Cadets in a double defeat at the hands of Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire. This result was slightly more predict-

able than the two aforementioned scorelines, with the boys all inexperienced at representative level. The lads fought hard, however, and the experience will undoubtedly be very beneficial.

For our six wins in these two matches we again look to the girls' sets where Melanie Ringrose and Julie Cundell proved too strong for their opponents. There are numerous young boys under 12 now showing promise and it will be to them that we shall be looking to strengthen this side of the team.

Hunts Central Junior Boys' team visit Bury St. Edmunds for a second round Carter Cup match after their first round opponents, St. Albans, had to forfeit the match due to illness. The same league's men's team found Dagenham too strong, losing all the sets in their Wilmott Cup encounter. Tim Speller took Kevin Caldon the distance but, that apart, it was the Essex League side who won comfortably.

The first domestic battles in this season's South East Midland League's programme brought the Peterborough and St. Neots Leagues in competition. St. Neots II finished all-square with Peterborough in the 2nd Division men's match. Ron Stannard won two for the latter. St. Neots won the corresponding women's match by a large 8-2 margin. Evelyn Allinson, the County Secretary, defeated Belinda Chamberlain whilst newcomer Sylvia Upton scored a win over Diana Bushby, whilst Barbara Pace was a maximum winner for St. Neots.

Peterborough evened the overall result by overhauling St. Neots Juniors 7-3, the former looking to have their strongest side of late and the return to form of Gregg Baker has gone a long way to obtain that position.

Hunts Central representative teams entertained the Royal Air Force at St. Ivo Recreation Centre. In all five matches were contested. The R.A.F. took the senior match 7-3 and the veterans at 6-4. Central outplayed the Women's Royal Air Force by a 9-1 margin and also recorded a gain in the Under-25 Section 'A' match by a 7-3 scoreline. In the remaining encounter the Under-25 'B' match, the score finished level.

Belinda Chamberlain played well at the Middlesex Authorised Tournament where seven consecutive wins and a group-topping position saw her at the opposite ends of the table to the Essex No. 1, Helen Gore, at the last 8 stage. The Buckden girl, however, made her exit, losing -22, -15 after leading 18-12 in the 1st.

On the local league scene N.C.I. have already stamped their authority on the Premier Division of the Hunts Central League by outplaying the team which finished runners-up to them last season, St. Ives 'A'. An early shock, however, as the Cambridge-based team found themselves 1-3 down. They took all the rest, however, to take the match by a 7-3 margin.

Achilles and Little Paxton 'A' are certain to be the teams at the top of the St. Neots League at the close of the season. Neither have been beaten and it will be the matches between these two sides which should bear most interest.

Hotpoint 'A' (A. White, R. Stannard and R. Smith) have 11 points from 4 matches to head the Peterborough Premier Division. This league, which has changed its scoring system this season, has joint leaders in City 'A', who also have 11 points but have played one match fewer. Don Megginson, Dave Hewitt and Roy Fisher hold this team's hopes.

I started this column on a gloomy note for our local sides so it's nice to finish on a happy one. Hunts Central junior girls have reached the Zone final of the Bromfield Trophy after a successful visit to Lowestoft. Belinda Chamberlain (3), Melanie Ringrose (2) and Julie Cundell (1) were the winners in a 6-3 gain. They now await the winners of the North Herts v Norwich tie. Well done girls.



Welsh Corner

H. Roy Evans

Wales needs to shrug off that 4-3 defeat by Scotland in the European League Second Division, and get down to the business of beating Switzerland on December 13. There was one simple formula about our chances against Scotland, and it was that Richard Yule had to be beaten by Alan Griffiths or Graham Davies, and inasmuch as Alan had eliminated Richard from the Essex Open when winning it at the end of last season, it seemed like a reasonable bet.

But Richard, who is probably the best player in the Division, asserted his old superiority over the two Welsh players, and the plan didn't work. With Julie Ralphs still looking for the experience to succeed in this company, the match went against us, with both Alan and Graham beating John McNee and taking the doubles.

Scotland, having already had a good win over Spain, now look almost assured of the Championship, and with Spain having disposed of Switzerland, who were also "white-washed" by Luxembourg. Wales must also

win against the Swiss. The match will be played at Aberdare on the Monday following the Cardiff Open, in which event the Swiss players will also participate.

Two open tournaments—the Aberdare and the Swansea, demonstrate that Welsh form still lacks any depth, and only a very small group can offer any real defence against attacks from the usual English entrants from the Midlands, Cheshire and the West Country.

Bristol's Chris Sewell took the honours at the Aberdare, and he continues to pose problems for Graham Davies, who played convincingly to reach the final, but then faded away against Chris in the third game.

There was little else to enthuse about from a Welsh point of view, our women's performances being without any distinction, although Julie Ralphs showed some form, albeit very uneven. Suffice it to say that this was a splendid tournament, well organised by the Aberdare League, who nevertheless had to cut out the Mixed and the Cadet events to be able to cope with the enormous entry.

The Swansea League, deciding to hold Junior and Cadet Events on November 6 and the Senior on the following day, certainly showed that this must be the pattern for the future. Saturday's events for the young people attracted a very big entry, from as far afield as Plymouth, and although again there was little Welsh joy, the event produced some sparkling table tennis.

It was Graham Davies's day on the Sunday, and his triumph was the result of more sharpness and mobility in his play than I have seen for some time. His "bete noir", Chris Sewell, was eliminated in the quarters by Paul Judd, the latter making a very welcome comeback after some seasons

of indifferent health. Paul then went on to a cliff-hanging semi-final defeat of Mats Weibass, the Swede from Reading, whilst Graham accomplished one of his best performances—a two-straight very convincing win over Douglas Johnson, the English-ranked No. 10, currently making a big leap upwards. Graham was much too sharp for Paul in a final which he completely dominated. Graham and Walter Hussey lost a doubles against Simon Heaps and Weibass, a set they could have won, but Graham took his second title with a splendid triumph of Julie Ralphs and himself over Johnson and Karen Groves.

Julie struck some fine form in this encounter, and she was glad of it, because her loss to Diane St. Ledger in the semi-finals, after showing complete domination of her forehand top-spin, was due to her not being match sharp. Too many unforced errors were the result of not having enough hard competition up North.

EARLY ENTRIES

Although entries do not close for two months, 25 countries have so far indicated their intention to compete in the Norwich Union-sponsored 34th World Table Tennis Championships, at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from March 26 to April 5 next year.

The People's Republic of China, the country which is expected to win most of the seven titles at stake, will be among the contestants and so will Hungary, whose team will include the reigning singles champion, Istvan Jonyer.

Six Arab nations have so far replied, and other countries among the 25 are Russia, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea.

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JOOLA

table tennis

New Zealand Table Tennis Assoc.

Applications are invited for the position of National Coach.

Duties:

To be responsible to the NZTTA Directorate of Coaching and to implement its programme. The duties will be primarily to conduct clinics for provincial association coaches but will also include coaching of leading juniors and seniors.

Qualifications:

A good knowledge of table tennis with an ability to organise and communicate. The applicant will be required to teach the modern close-to-the-table game with its variation of loop and spin. The emphasis of coaching should be on the shake-hand grip style of holding the racket. The successful applicant must be able to communicate with ease in English, both spoken and written.

Conditions and Salary:

Return air fares to and from New Zealand will be paid. A salary according to qualifications and experience may be negotiated in addition to the payment of internal accommodation and travel expenses while involved with coaching in New Zealand. Six weeks holiday per year to coincide with the summer school holidays. Employment subject to approval by the Immigration Division, Labour Department. The initial term would be for three years. The terms are negotiable for a single person only.

Security:

Applications are strictly confidential and should state age, qualifications and experience and be supported by references from Table Tennis Associations.

Inquiries:

If necessary, the position may be discussed with the Secretary, Mr. K. C. Wilkinson during the Commonwealth Championships in Guernsey or at the World Championships at Birmingham.

Applications:

All applications should be forwarded to the

Hon. Secretary
New Zealand Table Tennis Association
Mr. K. C. Wilkinson, B.E.M.
59 Garden Road,
Avalon — Lower Hutt
NEW ZEALAND.

Closing Date:

2nd May, 1977.

ANY TAKERS

In the days prior to and immediately after the 34th World Championships there will be a number of foreign teams who wish to play matches against County, League and Club sides. Already such requests have been received from Israel and the United States of America, so we would like to hear from any secretary who wishes to arrange one of these matches.

The visiting teams will be prepared to cover their own expenses but any hospitality provided will naturally be greatly appreciated. The relevant dates in respect of the aforementioned countries are:—

Israel—March 14-20.

U.S.A.—March 22-24 and April 7-9.

All applications to entertain them and any other team should be addressed to the E.T.T.A. General Secretary, Mr. Albert Shipley, at 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA.

BRITAIN'S FIRST TABLE TENNIS STAMPS

To celebrate the issue of Britain's first stamp depicting table tennis—the 10p value of the Racquet Sports set of four stamps to be released on Wednesday, 12th January, 1977—the two national organising bodies of England—the English Table Tennis Association and the English Schools' Table Tennis Association—are producing a special First Day Cover.

This cover, franked with the 10p stamp, can be ordered with either the Hastings first day cancel or the Birmingham first day cancel.

Hastings has been, since 1972, the administrative headquarters of the English Table Tennis Association, and Birmingham will be the venue for the 34th World Championships, to be played at the National Exhibition Centre from 26th March to 5th April, 1977. Orders for covers at the rate of 25p each may be placed up to Friday, 7th January, 1977, with Mr. I. R. Crickmer, 12 Cypress Street, Barbourne, Worcester, WR3 8AU. Orders must specify which of the cancels is required, and remittances should be made out to the "English Schools' Table Tennis Association".

Trade orders for the covers in quantities are invited, and will be subject to negotiation.

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Swaythling Club International

By **BILL EVANS**, Hon. Sec.

We are very sorry to inform our members that Mr. Lovro Ratkovic, the International Representative for Yugoslavia, died after an illness, in August, 1976. He will be a great loss to the Club and also to Yugoslav Table Tennis and he was a most conscientious Representative member of the Club and it will be very difficult to replace him. It is intended by Yugoslavia to organise a Women's Tournament in his memory to be held in Zagreb. We are hoping that Zdenko Uzorinac will take his place as Yugoslav Representative but this is still to be confirmed.

Since the last issue of our "Bulletin", we have enrolled Marty Reisman, U.S.A., and Alan Hydes, England. We welcome them to the Club and hope they will enjoy their association with us.

INDIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

We are informed by Gautam Divan that the All-India Tournament this season will be held at Allahabad, 24th December, 1976, to the 2nd January, 1977. One member of the Swaythling Club is being invited by the All-Indian Association and hospitality plus admission, etc. but not travelling expenses will be paid by the All-Indian Association. Any member wishing to attend should write to the Secretary as soon as possible or direct to Mr. Gautam Divan, Advani Chambers, Sir Phirozshah Mehta Road, Bombay 400 001, India.

SWAYTHLING CUP SONG

Members will remember that our member from Belgium, Guy Delebarre, submitted a song for adoption by the Club but in the meantime we have received another entry from Mrs. Victor Barna, of England, and it is hoped to get both entries recorded professionally so that we can decide which to accept. We will advise what decision has been made when the recordings have been played.

1977 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EXHIBITION

The I.T.T.F. intend to organise an exhibition of table tennis mementos during the World Championships, 1977, in Birmingham, and it is hoped that this will be manned every day by members of the Swaythling Club. We hope to ensure the success of this exhibition and this is why we are asking for members to indicate whether they hope to be present.

A reminder, too, that the World Championships will also be the occasion for re-electing the Officers and Committee of the Club. We want to avoid the embarrassing situation we were faced with in 1975 when not a single nomination for any position was received. We are therefore indicating the present holders of office assuming that they offer themselves for re-election but also await further nominations from members. Remember the Club needs new blood and every office is available for change. So don't let us down this time—send your nomination to the Secretary and we will publish the full list of nominations by February, 1977, in time for you to record your vote at the Biennial General Meeting at the World Championships, in Birmingham, March, 1977.

President: Joe Veselsky (Ireland).
Vice-Presidents: Dr Zarko Dolinar (Switzerland), Ichiro Ogimura (Japan).
Treasurer: Hugo Urchetti (Switzerland).
Secretary: Bill Evans (England), 14 Beechwood Road, West Moors, Dorset.
Press Officer: Johnny Leach (England).
Deputy Press Officer: Bas den Breejen (Netherlands).

Committee Members: Ivan Andreadis (Czechoslovakia), Dr. Dieter Mauritz (West Germany), Steve Boros (England), Gautam Divan (India), Margaret Walden (Canada), Rufford Harrison (U.S.A.), Ranga Ramanujan (India), Ferenc Sido (Hungary), Jean Mercier (France).

WIGAN SPECTACULAR

Why don't you organise a Christmas outing for your league members and give them an opportunity of seeing some of the world's leading players in action.

The weekend of December 17-18 (Friday-Saturday) will see the staging at the new Howe Bridge Sports Centre, Atherton, near Manchester, of two major events:—

1. Norwich Union Trophy (On Friday) from 6-30 p.m.
2. Norwich Union International Invitation Tournament (on Saturday), from 9-30 a.m. and will feature:—

ISTVAN JONYER (World Champion, from Hungary).

STELLAN BENGTTSSON (Sweden — 1968 World Champion and No. 5 in the World).

DRAGUTIN SURBEK (Yugoslavia — 1968 European Champion and No. 3 in the World).

MILAN ORLOWSKI (Czechoslovakia — 1974 European Champion and No. 6 in the World).

DENIS NEALE (5 times English Champion and No. 19 in the World).

DESMOND DOUGLAS (Champion of England).

PAUL DAY (Finalist 1976 European Youth Championships).

NICKY JARVIS (No. 22 in the World).

The Saturday event will also include a special challenge match between European, Commonwealth and English Champion, Jill Hammersley, and Carole Knight, the English No. 2.

Prize money for the two events totals £2,250 and you can also win, for John Jaques & Son Ltd. have said that they will present the table on which the finals are played to the association bringing the most spectators.

With a discotheque for players and spectators also being planned by the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan's Department of Leisure on the Saturday evening, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

Tickets, priced at £1 and £1.50, can be obtained for each day from the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan, Department of Leisure, 9-10 Bridgeman Terrace, Wigan, but hurry—time and seats may run out on you.

THERE IS LIMITED ACCOMMODATION AT THE HOTEL THE PLAYERS WILL BE USING WHICH CAN BE PASSED ON AT REDUCED RATES. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

22nd YUGOSLAV OPEN

The host nation's Dragutin Surbek was the winner of the 22nd Yugoslav Open Championships played in Novi Sad over the period October 18-20, beating Tibor Klampar, of Hungary, in a 5-game final. In the semis Surbek ousted Liang Ko-liang (China) and Klampar his compatriot, Istvan Jonyer.

World champion Pak Yung Sun, of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, triumphed anew in the counterpart women's event, beating Ke Hsin-ai (China) 3-0 in the final.

Both team events were won by the **People's Republic of China**. A full report (by the Editor) will appear in the January issue together with a detailed report of the Scandinavian Open written by Keith Gorman, of Marcom Associates.



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THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE SCENE

by Leslie Constable

In their first match of the season Cambridgeshire had a good win against Northamptonshire in Div. 2 East, at Cambridge Y.M.C.A., when they were successful 7-3. The Men's contingent of Paul Day, Keith Richardson and Mick Harper were all successful in their singles and, with victory in the Men's Doubles, Northamptonshire were well and truly beaten. However, it was a different story with the Women, as Cambs lost all three events, namely two singles and the doubles. Jean Allinson, who was playing her first match for Cambridgeshire, gave a spirited display against Mrs. Bain but was beaten in three games against niggling defence, and Sally Hirst failed to cope with the consistent hitting of Miss Wallis, who is a vastly improved player.

In Div. 3 East, Cambs II had another disastrous start to the season when they were beaten 8-2 by Norfolk II. No doubt we shall see an improvement as the season goes on but it is a little disturbing to find that these reserve players are not quite up to standard.

In Div. 2 Midland of the Junior Section, Cambs were beaten 8-2 by Northamptonshire, their third heavy consecutive defeat. Their record now stands—Sets for 3; Sets against 27!

This record shows the plight of the Junior Team, without the assistance of Day, Richardson and Geoff Davies. This season, of course, is a transitional one for the new team and I am sure that with quite a nucleus of young players, that next season will see a big improvement. The Cambs Junior Second Team, in their opening match of the season, were defeated 7-3 by the newly-formed Lincolnshire Second Team which shows that the standard of junior play in the Eastern region is becoming gradually of a higher standard. The coaching of the juniors must be most important and Cambs coaches have a tough time on their hands to re-shape teams that can once again enable Cambridgeshire to lead the field in this sphere.

In a local clash in the Wilmott Cup, Ely defeated Cambridge 5-4. In this match veteran John Thurston won two, which gave Cambridge a chance and with David Tiplady also winning one, it was left for Richardson to steer Ely home after the score had stood at 4-all. This was quite a good effort by the Cambridge team, who started the match with little hope of victory and I am pleased to see Tiplady again in the news, as he is quite a fine player.

In the S.E.M. League Cambridge and Wisbech Juniors second team played a 5-all draw in Div. 2. This result is significant in that Cambridge were able to obtain a point against a team that has a wealth of talent and it must show that coaching has been fairly successful during the last few weeks.

In the Cambs League Soham I lead the first division, winning their first four matches, but are closely followed by New Chesterton Institute, who are also strongly challenging and maybe we shall see quite a finish at the end of the season. In Div. 2, Y.M.C.A. II lead the table and had a good 6-4 win over Soham III. Herbert Robinson and Melbourn are still unable to get off the mark in this division, both losing their third consecutive matches to Haverhill I and Soham IV respectively. Two former County juniors, John Suchocki and Ricky Paine, have shot Sawston to the top of Div. 4b with three consecutive wins, but Soham V have also won three, if less impressively. The newest team in the league, Pye T.V.T., gained their first points with a 6-4 win over Grant II.

In the Cambs League Knockout Trophy, Wesley Parkside II, the Div 5 team who

reached the final last season before being narrowly defeated by Soham I, are again doing their "giant-killing" act with a first round victory over University Press II, who operate in Div. 2. After trailing 2-3 they rallied strongly and won an exciting match 5-3. The team of Geoff Hudson, Tony Ashdjin and Reg Goddard look like performing well again this season. Eastern Electricity, from Div. 5a, were another lower division team to beat a higher one, winning 7-2 against Impington III, who are one of the top teams in Div. 3b. D. Taylor was unbeaten for the winners. In a match between Melbourn and L.P.A. II, Ivor Newman, who plays his table tennis in a wheelchair, won two, but could not prevent Melbourn winning 5-4 after they had trailed 1-3. Last season's winners, Soham I, beat Div. 4 Shire Hall 6-3. Cupit and Gothard had given Shire Hall a shock 2-0 lead with wins over Palmer and Richardson respectively, and although Cupit gained another success with a win over Palmer, Soham recovered to win the remaining sets.

Wisbech opened their S.E.M.L. fixtures away to St. Neots, who won 6-4. Geoff Calvert played particularly well and won his two singles, the other two members of the team, John Buck and Geoff Davies winning one each. The Junior Second Team had better fortune against Hunts Central "B", winning 7-2. In this encounter Jamie Frost won three, Paul Stacey two and Michael Jackman two. The East Anglian side followed up their recent success with an impressive 8-2 victory over March, with Cyril Halstead once again winning all his sets. The East Anglian Junior Teams have yet to win a game. Wisbech 'A' team lost 3-7 at home to Bury St. Edmunds and the 'B' team lost by a similar score to March, with David Brammer winning two. The North Norfolk team commenced their fixtures with wins over Fakenham (9-1) and Wymondham (6-4). They also drew away to Dereham. In these encounters Chris Gay was outstanding. Sutton Bridge have topped Bury Cars from the top of Div. 1, with Paul Jackson playing particularly well for the Bridge. Wisbech Institute, last season's champions, are rapidly moving up the table, but an unexpected draw with Tydd caused a minor upset for them. In this encounter Barry Wilson had wins over Geoff Calvert and Geoff Davies.

The March League won the Keke Mistry Trophy for the first time when they beat Ely 6-3 in the final at Cambridge Corn Exchange. Although Ely had the best player on view in Stuart Palmer, who was unbeaten, March had the better all-round team and were worthy winners of the competition, which is competed for by U-14 teams of member leagues affiliated to the Cambs T.T.A. Cambridge gave a disappointing performance and Marianne Cox was the sole winner in their 8-1 semi-final defeat by March. In the other semi-final Ely beat Wisbech 6-3.

Paul Day, Soham's 18-year-old international player, has been accepted for Cambridge University next October. Day, a former pupil of King's School, Ely, is to read Mathematics at Fitzwilliam College. Paul first played for Cambridgeshire when he was 11 and his coming up to Cambridge will no doubt bring smiles to the University team!

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkley

NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Congratulations to Stephanie Jones and to Shirley Cain on gaining National recognition in the England Junior and Cadet Ranking Lists respectively. Stephanie is No. 13 and Shirley No. 10, and both deserve this reward for the effort they have put into their game and certainly it reflects great credit on Jim Hayward, our County Coach, who must be very pleased with the results being achieved now by the County

juniors. I think we are going to see a succession of Staffordshire names in the Junior Rankings over the next few years, and it won't be just confined to the girls, either.

The County teams have made an excellent start to their attempts to gain honours in this year's County Championships. The 'A' side of Tony Isaac, Brian Keates, Steve Rowe, Janet Carr and Stephanie Jones, improved on recent performances against Derbyshire 'A' by taking a point in a 5-5 draw, and with the women winning all their sets against reserve opponents, it was perhaps disappointing that the men were not able to force a win for two points. Isaac was unlucky in not gaining a second singles win, losing to I. Warner on deuce in the third.

Against Clywd the 'B' side of John Riley, Trevor Burrows, Keith Fellows, Sue Watton and Shirley Cain gained a 7-3 win with the girls, both juniors, remaining unbeaten. We extend a particular welcome to Burrows, who comes to us from Cheshire, although he is, of course, well known in the Potteries. Following their easy win against Cambridgeshire, the junior 'A' side came up against the very strong Essex team and did well to hold them to a draw, each player contributing a singles win apiece. The first match of the newly-formed junior 'B' side was away to Hereford, and both points were gathered in a 7-3 win. Eddie Wilkes (1), Bob Cartwright (1), Mark Evans (2), Shirley Cain (1) and Jill Harris (1) all played well, and the girls also won their doubles to complete the tally.

Further successes of Staffs. juniors can be reported from the tournament scene. Andrew Billingham won the Swansea Junior Open and Antony Devitt did well to reach the Under-12 final.

Dates for your diary — County League dates are: 27 November, 11 December, 8 and 22 January, 12 and 26 February. The Malcolm Scott Memorial Tournament is on December 5, and the County Closed will be held at Northwood on March 20. The Beattie Trophy has been reinstated as a Champion of Champions Team Knockout event for the top teams from each of the leagues affiliated to the County. Information is being circulated to league secretaries.

Many readers from within and without the County will be interested to hear that Marjorie Cumberbatch has decided to retire from the table tennis table. During a playing career of 33 years, which started at the Y.M.C.A. in West Bromwich, she represented this league over 200 times. Her father played league table tennis until he was over 80 and it was his peculiar "hammer" grip of the bat which Marjorie adopted. After the war she sought wider experience in the Birmingham League, and much encouraged by Maurice Goldstein, Marjorie was selected to represent Warwickshire—before the Staffordshire Association was formed.

In 1953, she attained No. 5 ranking in England and played in the National side at a time when the Rowe twins were Nos. 1 and 2. She notched up two wins against each of the twins, but the match which Marjorie remembers most vividly was in the 3rd round of the 1953 English Open against the Austrian No. 1, Linda Wertil. After four very close games, which left them level, Marjorie trailed 15-20 only to stage a terrific rally to pull back to deuce. Those five points were a tremendous and exciting spectacle and formed the highpoint of her career, but then came disaster. A net and an edge, and it was all over—in favour of the Austrian.

After temporary retirement to have her family—one of her two daughters plays in the West Bromwich League and is winning most of the junior trophies there—Marjorie confined her table tennis more locally to Staffordshire. Although scoring several tournament wins in various parts of the country, Marjorie was primarily a team player and played her best table tennis in representative matches. Even so, she has to

her credit an English Closed Veteran Women's Championship—not too long ago, of course!

As a Vice-President and Committee member, Marjorie will be maintaining close contact with table tennis and her many friends in the West Bromwich League. We wish her well, we look forward to seeing her as often as possible in table tennis circles and I am sure there will always be a team place available somewhere if she decides to change her mind.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Joan Robinson

TITLE REGAINED

The County Closed Championships were held during November, at North Kesteven Sports Centre, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Top seed Brian Hill regained the Men's Singles title, over Brian Allison, who had good wins over No. 3 seed, Mick East, in the quarter-finals and knocked out the holder, Peter Skerratt in a three-game semi-final. Hill won all his sets two-straight, although Peter Taylor (Grimsby) fought to the end in the second game of the semi-final, only losing 26-28. Hill completed a hat-trick, winning the Men's Doubles with East for the sixth consecutive time, and the Mixed with Mrs. Beryl Voss.

Suzanne Hunt, newly-ranked at 13 in the English Women's Ranking List, also won three finals, retaining the Junior Girls' title over Cheryl Buttery and, partnered by Marie Green, won the Women's Doubles. Suzanne had an extremely good win over the holder for the past two seasons, Jean White, to take the County Women's Championship for the 1st time.

Other finals were won by Skerratt, retaining his Veteran Singles title, although with this being his 15th set of the tournament, Peter was beginning to feel his age! The Junior Boys' title was won by Martin Norman, who had knocked out the top seed, Stuart Barr (Grimsby), 22-20 in the third, in the semi-final. David Johnson had a good win in his semi-final over Stephen Barnes (Scunthorpe), but was no match on the day for the Louth boy.

Final results:—
M.S.: B. Hill (Wyberton) bt B. Allison (Louth) 13, 7.
M.D.: Hill/M. East (Wyberton) bt P. Skerratt (Scunthorpe)/M. Shearer (Grimsby) -17, 17, 21.
W.S.: S. Hunt (Grantham) bt J. White (Spalding) 19, 19.
W.D.: Hunt/M. Green (Louth) bt K. Fisher (Louth)/M. Green (Spalding) 11, 17.
X.D.: Hill/B. Voss (Mablethorpe) bt Skerratt/White 18, 26.
B.S.: M. Norman (Louth) bt D. Johnson (Lincoln) 6, 7.
G.S.: Hunt bt C. Buttery (Lincoln) 12, 6.
V.S.: Skerratt bt Shearer 16, 23.

The County teams have started the season with mixed fortunes. The Seniors, having played two matches away from home, lost 3-7 to Lancashire, the women winning all their sets two-straight. The match with Cleveland II, played at Ormesby, was a 10-0 defeat, but the Lincolnshire players Taylor/Allison only lost at 20 in the final game to Wiley/Martin and White/Hunt had a close match against the Cleveland women, Tierney/Williams. After the hospitality and good sportsmanship game with Lancashire, it seems a pity that the Cleveland players' manners don't come up to their table tennis ability.

Following their win over Cumbria II, the Junior 1st team had a 9-1 win over Clwyd II; after the first couple of sets Lincs had an easy victory. Again our girls proved too strong.

The Junior 2nd team, having its first-ever match, had a fine win over Cambridgeshire 7-3, David Johnson (Lincoln), David Skerratt (Scunthorpe), Gillian Galloway

(Lincoln) and Carole Exton (Grantham) all making their County debut.

The County Junior Tournament, held at the end of October, with about 100 entrants, had no major surprises. Both Stuart Barr and Cheryl Buttery gained hat-tricks. Thanks are expressed to Alan Norman and the Louth League for staging this popular event.

Final results:—
B.S. (U-17): S. Barr bt S. Barnes (Scunthorpe) 18, -17, 11.
B.S. (U-15): D. Johnson (Lincoln) bt J. Chesworth (Lincoln) 14, 14.
B.S. (U-13): S. Pullen (Grantham) bt J. Sandham (Grimsby) 7, 18.
G.S. (U-17): C. Buttery bt G. Galloway 18, 16.
G.S. (U-15): G. Galloway (Lincoln) bt D. Brown (Louth) 9, 15.
G.S. (U-13): C. Exton (Grantham) bt J. Barnett (Grimsby) 5, 8.
G.S. (U-11): S. Worrell (Lincoln) bt R. Sandham (Grimsby) 8, 14.
B.D.: Barr/Barnes bt Chesworth/R. Duke (Lincoln) -15, 8, 18.
G.D.: Buttery/S. Radley (Lincoln) bt G. Sharpe (Grimsby)/D. Brown 16, 17.
X.D.: Barr/Buttery bt Johnson/Galloway 11, 16.

HAIGH, BUTLIN AND BUTCHER CUPS

In the Inter-town competitions, Wyberton (Hill, East, King), holders of the Haigh Cup, have started the season with a 10-0 win over Mablethorpe (Ryan, Willson, Birks) and a 9-1 win over Scunthorpe (Cuthbertson, Barnes, Cook) Scunthorpe's only success coming from County Junior, Stephen Barnes, who beat Gary King 11, 14. Lincoln, who finished in third place last season, have already suffered two defeats, to Scunthorpe and Grimsby. Louth, who are back in this competition after a break of two years, have obtained the services of Matt Shearer and Brian Allison, both County-ranked players. With three matches played they have only dropped one point.

In the Butlin Cup, holders Spalding (White, Green, Burgess) have had wins over Grantham 9-1, and Lincoln 8-2. Carole Exton beat Monica Green in the Grantham match, and Cheryl Buttery beat Green and Mary Burgess in the Lincoln match.

Butcher Cup holders, Grantham, have obtained maximum points from their three matches. The only other team on maximum points is Grimsby (R. Blow, S. Barr, K. Worth) who had a close 6-4 win over Lincoln (J. Chesworth, D. Johnson, G. Galloway). David Johnson had an extremely good win over top Junior, Stuart Barr, 13, 13 and Lincoln at one stage were leading 4-1. Grimsby had an easy 10-0 win over Skegness, who only turned out with two players. The Louth team is led by Junior County player, Martin Norman, who has won 8 out of his 9 sets, and they have had wins over Mablethorpe and Boston with the Gainsborough match being drawn.

By the time this goes to press entry for the Lincolnshire Junior Open, to be held on January 2, 1977, should be complete with the closing date being December 10. The next tournament on our calendar is the East of England 2-Star Championships, due to be held at Scunthorpe on Sunday, March 13, 1977. Entry Forms are now available from the Organising Secretary, Mrs. Joan Robinson, 13 Croppers Way, Freiston, Boston, Lincs., telephone Butterwick 267. This event includes U-17 Boys' and U-17 Girls' Singles as well as the six senior events.

AVON AND SOMERSET LEAGUE

by Dennis Pope

INCREASED ENTRY

The Avon and Somerset League enters its second season, and with an increased entry, it has been necessary to form an additional division to cater for the 22 Senior and 7 Junior teams. The best entries have come from Bath, who entered four Senior and

one Junior team, and Bridgwater, with three Senior and two Junior teams.

The officers and executive committee for season 1976-77 were elected at the A.G.M. held at Draycott. They were: President—Eric Wynn (Bath); Chairman—Tony Hills (Bridgwater); Secretary-Treasurer—Mike Baker (Mendip). Executive Committee—John Higgs and Ray Philpott (Avon), Dave Carter and Bill Waller (Somerset).

The Division formations were agreed as follows:—

PREMIER — Bath 'A', Bridgwater 'A', Failand, Bristol Club, Page, Bridgwater 'B', Bath 'B', Weston 'A'.
DIVISION ONE — Southmead, Yeovil, Portishead, Bedminster, Taunton 'A', Bath 'C', Weston 'B'.
DIVISION TWO — Bridgwater 'C', Fromeside, Mendip, Tiverton, Taunton 'B', Bath 'D', Failand 'B'.
JUNIORS — Mendip, Bridgwater 'A', Bristol, Fromeside, Bath, Taunton, Bridgwater 'B'.

One of the first shock results of the season in the Premier Division of the League was Don Morris's victory over Avon County player, Bob Murray, in the local derby match between Bath 'A' and Bath 'B', the former winning the match 9-1. Brian Reeves was unbeaten in Failand's 6-4 victory over Bristol Club, with Brian's wife, Pat, also winning both her games. Graham Green scored a possible in Bridgwater 'B's' 6-4 win over Bridgwater 'A'.

In the 1st Division a good win for John Higgs over Ray Philpott, but John was on the losing side, Bath 'C' going down to Weston 'B' 7-3.

Fromeside played their first game in the league at senior level, and they won their 2nd Division match in convincing style by beating Mendip 10-0. A welcome return to the league by Ron Bowles, who scored a possible for Failand 'B' in their 8-2 win over Taunton 'B'.

Avon County junior, Robert Wolfe, won both his singles for Fromeside in their 2-8 defeat at the hands of Bristol Juniors, for whom Geoff Totterdell and Julie Parker gave promising performances.

Results:—
PREMIER DIVISION: Bath 'A' 9, Bath 'B' 1; Bridgwater 'B' 6, Bridgwater 'A' 4; Failand 'A' 6, Bristol Club 4.
DIVISION ONE: Weston 'B' 7, Bath 'C' 3; Southmead 7, Bedminster 3; Portishead 8, Yeovil 2.
DIVISION TWO: Bath 'D' 10, Tiverton 0; Failand 'B' 8, Taunton 'B' 2; Fromeside 10; Mendip 0.
JUNIOR DIVISION: Bridgwater 'A' 8, Bridgwater 'B' 2; Bristol 8, Fromeside 2.

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

By Alan Cavell

MONEY MATTERS

The Bridgnorth T.T.A., in Shropshire, has again affiliated to the neighbouring table tennis county of Staffordshire. The schools in Bridgnorth are members of the Shropshire Schools' T.T.A., which has representation on the executive committee of the Shropshire T.T.A. Clubs in the Bridgnorth District Council's area which are not members of the Bridgnorth T.T.A. have separate representation on the Bridgnorth Sports Advisory Council. That body now has £800 available for physical recreation facilities and £300 for coaching projects.

The Telford T.T.A. has issued a report on table tennis prepared for each member of the executive committee of the newly-formed Wrekin Sports Advisory Council. Telford's delegate, Frank Manley, has successfully negotiated for the new Oakengates Leisure Centre to be a specialist table tennis centre.

David Siddle has already begun evening coaching sessions there and it is hoped that volunteers will now come forward to set up and run a table tennis club there. The

coaching at Telford's schools over the last three years is now producing many good young players and open clubs are urgently needed to enable them to play table tennis after they have left school. David Siddles is still coaching at Orleton Park School whilst Trevor Felton is now running evening courses at the Phoenix School as well as at New College.

Alan Cavell continues to coach at the Grammar/High, New College and St. Mary's Junior School. Roy Spencer, a member of the Albrighton T.T.C. for many years, has now qualified as a coach and has joined Alan Cavell in running that club's flourishing junior section of 30 or so young players.

The West Midlands Standing Conference of Sports Organisations has now allotted £46,000 to clubs which made minor applications for grant aid. Among the beneficiaries are two football clubs, two rugby football clubs, one lawn tennis club and one sailing club. An allocation of over £7,000, available from a previous exercise, has been allotted to another football club, another rugby football club and a hockey club.

No table tennis club made application for grant aid. After representing table tennis on the executive committee of the W.M.S.C. of S.O. for four years, Alan Cavell has decided not to stand for re-election. The county bodies of Hereford, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire and Worcestershire are entitled to nominate and appoint his successor.

Financial support by Norwich Union Insurance Group has enabled the C.C.P.R. to publish a booklet, "Action for Local Sport and Recreation". This contains useful advice for those concerned with safeguarding the future of local sports clubs.

Many of the top players were unable to attend the County's senior trials; the women's event was cancelled. Ranking lists subsequently issued were:—

Men
1, C. Neal (S); 2, M. Green (S); 3, M. Jones (T); 4, C. Roberts (O); 5, B. Suckley (O); 6, N. Thomas (S); 7, M. Beaman (S); 8, A. Horobin (T); 9, K. Walton (S).

Women
1, Mrs. G. Gee (S); 2, Mrs. M. King (S); 3, Mrs. P. Willcocks (T); 4, Mrs. C. Ashley (O); 5, Mrs. H. Flint; 6, Mrs. M. Robinshaw (T).

Boys
1, M. Green (S); 2, N. Thomas (S); 3, M. Pugh (S); 4, H. Dalton (O); 5, I. Johnston (S); 6, N. Mortimer (O); 7, N. Roberts (S); 8, J. Roberts (O); 9, D. Lloyd (T); 10, P. Morgan (S); 11, N. Charnley (T); 12, A. Gwilliam (S).

Girls
1, T. Powell (T); 2, L. Williams (S); 3, L. Lewis (S); 4, V. Bale (T); 5, A. Oates (S); 6, J. Siddle (T); 7, C. Jones (S); 8, C. Nevett (S); 9, J. Felton (T); 10, L. Degg (S).

Cadet Boys
1, D. Lloyd (T); 2, P. Morgan (S); 3, A. Gwilliam (S); 4, R. Jones (S); 5, P. Dalton (S); 6, G. Morgan (S); 7, P. Jackson (S); 8, T. Charnley (T).

Cadet Girls
1, T. Powell (T); 2, L. Degg (S); 3, J. Cheetham (S); 4, A. Lowe (T); 5, J. Goldingay (T); 6, J. Hartley (T).

Key: O—Oswestry, S—Shrewsbury, T—Telford.

The County's Junior team is again being generously sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank.

WEST WILTS NOTES

by Ray Edwards

JUNIOR STRENGTH

In recognition of the need to develop the game within West Wilts., the League Committee have formed a coaching sub-committee for the purpose of achieving this end.

The Committee have already organised training sessions for the junior players, under the direction of Bryan Merrett. At a

recent training session held at Trowbridge, Bryan was well supported by Tony Clayton, now resident in that part of the world.

In addition to catering for the juniors, the Committee have informed clubs in the West Wilts. League that any player over 18 years wishing to gain a diploma award in coaching will be considered at a future date convenient to arrangements of all involved.

Already two league players, namely Ray Edwards (Warminster) and John McCleod (Bradford-on-Avon) have undergone a diploma coaching course with Bryan Merrett.

An indication of the playing strength of the juniors from West Wilts. can be assessed by four of their players being selected to represent Wiltshire at senior and junior level, namely Kevin Edwards, John Chandler, Kevin Satchell and Duncan Cleveland.

The last three named were successful in a 6-3 win over Newbury in the Western Junior League opening match. The same three players won the County Senior League title for West Wilts., when beating Swindon men 5-4 in the final, after defeating Salisbury men 6-3 earlier.

Recent tournament results have showed two West Wilts. juniors proving their mettle. Kevin Edwards, now a tournament veteran, was the losing finalist in the Bournemouth Junior Open, after beating Graham Sandley earlier.

The following week Kevin was the losing semi-finalist in the Newbury Open, losing in the third game to the highly-skilled Joe Kennedy (Kent), ranked No. 4 junior in the country.

Meanwhile, Kevin Satchell reached the final of the Southampton Junior Open (Four T's) only to lose -19 in the decider to the more experienced Ian James, of Cornwall.

CUMBRIA COMMENT

by John Taylor

SOUND START

The County's senior team made a sound start to their County Championship programme with a 7-3 win over Notts. Brian Towell proved a worthy No. 1 in Chris Reed's absence (through 'flu) to gain two good singles wins without being taken to a decider. David Kirkpatrick and John Willis both had one win each and both went down in the third to the Notts No. 3, Glen Stredder who provided the main opposition along with Dave Fairholm and Gloria Stocks. Jennifer Pachul and Helen Addy both played well to go unbeaten and complete a good team performance which must raise confidence for the season ahead.

The Junior 1st team (minus Chris Reed) took their second win of the season with a similar 7-3 success over Durham (minus Keith Paxton). Cumbria's seven sets all came fairly easy with singles wins for Ian Reed, Neil Smith, Diccon Gray and Miranda Gray. Janet Smith flew Durham's colours by defeating Gail Smith in the decider and taking the girls' doubles with L. Alcock. The visiting boys saved their best for the doubles which they took completely against the run of play.

The Junior 2nd team travelled to Nottingham and with Stephen Sharp and Michael Cairns deputising for Diccon Gray and Matthew Wallace, the team put up a creditable performance in an 8-2 defeat. Andrew Pachul began well to take the first game of the first set against Stephen Inkley but couldn't hold on to his form for the next two and from that point the home side sped into a 5-0 lead. Mary McPortland then opened Cumbria's account with a nail-biting 21-19 win in the third against Kathryn Lindley. This was followed by a great win for Andrew over the Notts No. 1, Terry Bramford. After losing the first game -17 Andrew came back strongly and led

17-8 in the next. His opponent rallied equally well, however, and pulled the scores level at 20-all, at which point Andrew showed tremendous spirit to take the game 24-22 and the next 21-17. The two sets that followed showed a prolonged fight-back by the Cumbria team but both Elaine Mathie and Stephen Sharp went down in the deciding games. Still, invaluable experience for Stephen and Michael in their first match at County level and a welcome confidence-boost for Andrew.

Millom School, current champions of the Barrow and District League, look destined to hold on to the title, even at this early stage, after comprehensively beating nearest challengers Vickers Sports Club, 8-2. With Chris Reed again conspicuous through absence, Diccon Gray stepped up from the 2nd team and gave a super performance to emerge as the star of the match. Vickers' model of consistency, Alan Fay, took their two wins over Ian Reed and Neil Smith, but team-mates Mike Jackson and Neil Bartlett could never get to grips with the match at all. The school club have just received a batch of 10 tracksuits as part of their sponsorship deal with Ascot Sports. The grey-blue suits look very smart along the lines of an airline stewardess uniform and still to arrive are the shirts and shorts/skirts in the school colours of Green and Grey respectively. The Ascot name will certainly be seen in the many corners of Britain, thanks to these much-travelled youngsters.

THE SUFFOLK SCENE

by R. C. Langridge

VIEWING THE ENGLAND SQUAD

Local table tennis enthusiasts have had two opportunities of seeing the England squad in action during the past month.

On October 26 Ken Mathews brought his England squad to the Denes Holiday Camp, at Lowestoft, for an entertaining and amusing "Jubilee" exhibition, which commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the birth of the Lowestoft Table Tennis League. The "entertainers" — Jill Hammersley, Linda Howard, Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Walker, Paul Day and Donald Parker, kept a crowd of 350 enthralled throughout their enlightening display. The guest of honour was the E.T.T.A. Chairman, Mr. Charles Wyles, O.B.E., and almost all the remainder of the audience were past or present players/members of this strong and enthusiastic Lowestoft League.

SUPERIOR RUSSIANS

On November 3, the England team opposed Russia in the European League, Super Division, at Ipswich (see Stop Press, November issue).

England's representatives, Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis, Paul Day and Jill Hammersley were unable to register a victory, but not a single member could be faulted for lack of endeavour. Jill Hammersley gave the capacity crowd their greatest thrill of the evening when she took the first game against Zoya Rudnova by 21-19. The Russian girl fought back to win the next two games, however, and Russia went on to a convincing 7-0 victory.

CHAMPIONS TOO STRONG!

Suffolk Juniors played Warwickshire, the reigning Junior 2nd Division (Midland) champions, under almost perfect conditions at the British Sugar Corporation's Social Club at Bury St. Edmunds, on November 6. Although suffering a sound 10-0 defeat, this was a match from which this very young Suffolk side should have learned a lot of useful lessons.

The gracious words of praise, given by the Warwick team secretary, concerning the conditions generally and the umpiring in particular, was much appreciated by Ron Clark, the Suffolk Umpires' Secretary. In return Suffolk wish these pleasant opponents every success throughout this season and look forward to their next encounter with them.

CLEVELAND VIEW

by Alan Ransome

EUROPE CALLS

Ormesby have a double trip to Germany in December to play both their quarter-final matches in the Europe Club Cup competition.

Ormesby's men, having beaten Barcelona 5-0 in the second round, are now matched against the German Champions Reutlingen, on December 8. The Reutlingen team is likely to be Peter Stellweg, Manfred Baum and Peter Engel, whilst the Clevelanders will be fielding their usual team of Denis Neale, Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker.

Ormesby's women, who scored an impressive win over Zero Copenhagen in their second round match, travel to Duisberg to play the Kaiserberg Club. Featured in the home team are German champion Agnes Simon and another German international, Ursula Hirschmüller. The Ormesby team is likely to be unchanged from that which beat the Danish team — Carole Knight, Angela Tierney and June Williams.

On the home front preparations are well in hand for the staging of the Norwich Union International Championships at Thornaby Pavilion from January 6-8, and the World Championships qualifying tournament again at Thornaby on January 9.

This is the first time that the "English Open", to give it its original title, has been held in the North for several years and the County Association are anxious to at least match Brighton so that a case can be made for holding it up here on a more regular basis.

The other main activity on the home front at present is the preparation for taking advantage of the upsurge in interest anticipated as a result of the World Championships. Meetings are planned with each of the District Councils within the County to discuss development and promotions within their particular areas and already substantial progress has been made with Middlesbrough District Council for the agreement of a package which would include a closed tournament, 8 coaching centres, all with a number of tables and table tennis being the main activity of the Easter play scheme with coaches being employed to keep the holiday children occupied with the playing of table tennis.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

FIRST BRADFORD CENTURY

Yorkshire Executive Committee member, selector and 2-star coach, Jim Yeats, became, on November 14, the first male player to make 100 Yorkshire League appearances for Bradford. And it was a story-book century, too. Jim was playing for Bradford II in the Div. 1 derby match against Bradford I, and won all his three singles, beating Bradford's Nos. 1, 2 and 3—Mick Stephenson, Bob Shutt and Clem Lo, respectively. The match ended a 5-5 draw.

With ex-County man David Rayner in the Sheffield I side, together with England-ranked junior Steve Mills, and Mick Askham, the South Yorkshire team continue to provide surprises. On October 17 they took a point from Leeds I (the Hazelwood twins and Andrew Metcalfe), Mills winning 3 singles and Rayner two. On the same weekend Halifax I (Beadsley, Bottomley, Lamb) beat Bradford I 6-4. The Halifax trio each won 2 singles whilst Stephenson was undefeated for Bradford. On November 14, Sheffield forced another draw at Hull—Mills beating Mike Harrison but losing to Joe Naser, whilst Rayner lost to Harrison but beat Naser. Dave Boulter made sure of a point for the Humbersiders by beating the luckless Askham.

The Harrison-Mills clash was the second meeting in 7 days. On November 7 the two

boys played each other in the final of the Middlesex Junior Authorised tournament at South Ruislip, and on this occasion it was Harrison who triumphed. They were the only Yorkshire players there, and it was very pleasing to see them both come through a strong field to reach the final, particularly after travelling the long haul from a County match in Cleveland the previous night.

The only notable result from the County matches on November 6 was the win by Kevin Beadsley and Mike Harrison over Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker in the men's doubles, a result which avoided a complete Cleveland "whitewash" of the Yorkshire first team, who were without Tony Clayton, Stephenson and Adrian Hill, both of Bradford, made their County debuts for the senior second and junior second teams respectively against Northumberland, at Huddersfield Y.M.C.A.

The Wakefield League's youngest coach, 18-year-old Steve Deighton, has some unusual pupils. They are members of the PHAB CLUB (Physically Handicapped but Able Bodied). The players of Pinderfields Paraplegic Club have proved it possible to overcome physical handicaps and win matches and that's the message Steve Deighton wants to get over to his PHAB friends.

The County Cadet (Under-14) ranking list, issued in October, is as follows:—

Boys

1, Neil Barley (Hull); 2, Sean Madden (Hull); 3, Graham Wilson (Bradford); 4, Mark Heppenstall (Sheffield); 5, Paul James (Bradford); 6, Ian Walker (Doncaster); 7, Mark Illingworth (Barnsley); 8, Ian Duxbury (Leeds); 9, Neil Edgecock (Leeds); 10, Roger Palfreeman (Halifax); 11, David Illingworth (Barnsley); 12, Stephen Hardy (Bradford); 13—Andrew Tipling (Harrogate); 14—Pepe Gonzalez (Leeds).

Girls

1, Angela Hudson (Hull); 2, Angela Lutkin (Hull); 3, Julie Todd (Bradford); 4, Tracey Wenn (Hull); 5, Claire Sanderson (Hull); 6, Samantha Kallianpur (Hull).

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT

Yet another disappointing match for the Senior County team in the season's opener at Cumbria, going down 3-7. The team is, in the words of every football manager, going through a transitional period. The County's acknowledged No. 1, Alan Croome, is not available at the moment, nor is County Champion Martin Kinsella. Thus, of the team that travelled to Cumbria, only Mrs. Gloria Stocks was a first team regular last season, and David Fairholm, Glen Stredder and Mrs. Ann Wass were all making first team singles debuts. Glen, the County junior champion, excelled, taking both his singles. An out-of-touch Nicky Kirkland, and Fairholm, could not add to his victories in the singles, but combined to take the Men's Doubles in the only other success.

Fortunately, the news at Junior level is very different, with 6-4 and 8-2 victories having been recorded with a less than full strength team. The first win, over Cleveland, was achieved with the boys ranked 3, 5 and 6. All players have performed with credit, namely Terry Bramford, Steve Inkley, Trevor Kerry, Mark Pearson, Pauline Cameron and Kathy Lindley.

The Veterans' team, strengthened further by the "coming of age" of Alf Saunders, started in their usual vein with an 8-1 victory over Clwyd.

Nottingham City teams have had mixed fortunes but the "A" team have gone down on three consecutive occasions. The team is very unsettled and Croome is receiving little support, the only bright spot so far being Alan's crushing defeat of Chris Sewell in the Bristol match. The "B" team is also

struggling to make the expected impression on the third division of the Midland League and promotion prospects look very weak indeed.

The Junior 'A' team has made a good start although their hopes of the Midland League title were dashed by a 4-6 reverse at the hands of Coventry. The Women's team of Pat Hammond, Mary Saunders and Pauline Cameron made an excellent start to the season by defeating Birmingham 'A' 6-4. Pauline, on her debut, showed lots of promise, clinching the deciding set. The very strong Veterans' sides have both had winning starts, with Saunders, John Burraston, John Ellis, Ron Bolton, Tom Ellis, Don Horton and Dave Pearson all winning steadily.

HEREFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Beddard

HOME DRAW

In their start to the season in Div. 3 (West) of the County Championships, Herefordshire drew with Dorset at home. Mick Prosser and Russell Preece won both their singles, Prosser combining with young Mark Owen to take the doubles.

The first away match at Cornwall proved rather a disaster, Cornwall taking the first eight sets before Preece stopped the rot with a win over Ian James. Owen then proceeded to take the final set -17, 19, 17 against R. G. Bunt.

Next fixture is at home to Avon II on December 4. County rankings are:—

Men

1. M. Prosser
2. R. Preece
3. J. Oldham
4. M. Owen
5. R. Owens
6. M. Owens
7. N. Hodges
8. E. W. Meredith

Women

1. Mrs. N. Newcombe
2. Miss L. Owen
3. Mrs. A. Lawrence
4. Miss S. N. Price
5. Mrs. B. Greening
6. Miss S. Owen

We must congratulate young Michael Owens on gaining a No. 10 national Cadet ranking.

Organised table tennis on a league basis will shortly be starting in Herefordshire schools. This is thanks to sterling work by two teachers, Dave Thomas and Andy Lancaster, of Over Ross School, who arranged an open meeting of representatives from interested schools. Initially there will be a league with one 4-a-side team maximum from each school, comprising boys and girls of any age.

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

TREBLES FOR WISE AND FAIRBANKS

Poole were hosts to Newbury, and although the visitors were without Reeves and Heaps, they just managed it 5-4. At one stage Newbury were leading 5-2 but Poole fought back well to narrow the gap, thanks to Howard Davies beating Norman Byng and Richard Kozlowski.

Davies nearly had a maximum, going down -19 in the third to David Wise, as did Roger Lee, who was also involved in two close games with Byng, losing -19, -17. Wise was a treble winner for Newbury.

Plymouth, at home to Weston, won 6-3 although, for the visitors, Jimmy Andrews just failed to win his three, losing -20, -17 to Terry Fairbanks after beating Keith James and Mike Short, both in third game deciders.

Fairbanks was Plymouth's star man with three-in-a-row, while Mike Short won two with Keith James, surprisingly, only one—against J. Crabtree.



34TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE TABLE CONTROVERSY



**"Let's put our cards on the table" says
TOM BLUNN, Hon. Treasurer E.T.T.A.**

Last month you would find reference to a matter that has received widespread national publicity which does not appear to be designed to benefit the game or the E.T.T.A. How often have we hoped for such publicity for our promotions both nationally and locally, but never received it when it would have been of benefit. But those who have talked about the matter do not appear to be interested in getting the facts correct; only too willing to accept the information they see in print and jump to wrong conclusions.

In dealing with the affair over the past few weeks the E.T.T.A. has been very concerned with the lack of enquiries from people who have considered it necessary to rush into print and condemn the Association.

It is not possible at the present time to give complete details of the offers made by various firms but suffice to say that in the opinion of those people charged with the job of accepting one of the offers, the one which appears to be most favourable to the E.T.T.A. was accepted. This decision was endorsed by the World's Executive Committee, the Management Committee and the National Council without one single note of dissent.

It is considered that once the full facts are known the majority of the 100,000 members would agree with the decision taken.

It is the policy of the E.T.T.A. to encourage participation by the British manufacturers, it always has been and it always will be. But the World Championships, with half a million pounds at stake, is big business, and only accepted commercial principles can be adopted if the event is to be a financial success.

If it is not a success then the loss will be borne by the members through the medium of the returnable guarantee fund. This fund was created on the strict understanding that every effort would be taken to see that no loss was incurred and that is the

basis on which all transactions are being considered.

It would have been very simple to rely on the guarantee fund and take the easy way out irrespective of the financial consequences but this would have been irresponsible and subsequent criticism would be well deserved.

The table problem is simply a question of cash as against goods (tables for sale) and the time taken to collect the cash from the sale of the goods made available in lieu of cash.

It is obvious that bills will have to be paid as the event proceeds and no commercial concern will be prepared to wait for its money. It is not possible to pay our accounts with tables; only cash is acceptable. Also, in these days of high interest rates for money on hand and crippling rates for money borrowed, there was no alternative but to go for the offer which was financially favourable even though the total value involved was the same in two cases.

There are still a lot of business arrangements to be settled before the Worlds is completed and the E.T.T.A. must maintain a reputation for fair dealing on accepted business principles. This was the way the table agreement was negotiated and nobody has offered any criticism on those grounds.

Some critics seem to think the E.T.T.A. is a buyer in this instance and has gone abroad for goods that could have been made in this country. We all know that in fact the E.T.T.A. is selling and that the value of the contract, £20,000 is coming into this country and is therefore an export.

One local Member of Parliament complains of the promotion of foreign goods; he must be very uncomfortable when he watches his commercial television as the vast majority of goods advertised are foreign or have foreign sources. Even goods with traditional English names are now manufactured abroad.

This is not an attempt to justify the decision on economic grounds but just to show how some people react without making the slightest attempt to get to know the facts.

The E.T.T.A. will continue its policy of making its decisions in the best interests of the members as a whole and, as regards the Worlds, will endeavour to finish up on the right side.

BIRMINGHAM ADVENTURE

For decades Birmingham has been internationally recognised as one of the world's greatest industrial cities. "Made in Birmingham" has long been a household phrase from Toronto to Tahiti. Now the city sees itself not only as the heart of the nation's industry, but also as a tourist centre, with an exciting future.

The World Table Tennis Championships will be the latest in a long line of international sporting events to be held in Birmingham, ranging from the World Cup soccer matches in 1966, to the World Power-Lifting championships in 1975.

Birmingham has grown up to be a lively, sophisticated city which can hold its own in any company. Its post-war achievements

are considerable, and its massive redevelopment schemes have been copied by town planners the world over.

Birmingham as a shopping centre is known all over the world and visitors to the second city have an abundance of choice for a fabulous night out. Top class entertainment with big international cabaret stars, and clubs for wine and dining at leisure until late in the morning. Or if you're feeling energetic, there are sophisticated or informal clubs galore for dancing to the sounds of top line groups and DJ's. You can have a flutter at the tables or see a glamour show. Birmingham has everything!

Although it stands at the centre of Britain's industry, Birmingham is surrounded by typically English countryside—quiet meadows and woodland, sleepy old-world villages, impressive castles and ancient churches. To the South-East is Warwickshire, Shakespeare's county, where you find the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, and black and white half-timbered houses, in his home town of Stratford-on-Avon. Within easy reach are the cathedral cities of Worcester, Lichfield and Coventry, the magnificent castles of Warwick and Kenilworth, and the houses of Ragley Hall, Packwood House and Compton Wynates, steeped in history.

£55M SHOWCASE STANDS READY

The 34th World Championships will be the biggest thing ever to happen in table tennis. With more than seventy countries expected to participate, it will be one of the largest single sport events ever to be held in England and possibly the world. And ready to house it is the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham.

The NEC is the first purpose-built exhibition complex to be built in Britain this century.

In 1969, Birmingham made proposals to the British Government for a Midlands solution to the national need for such a centre. Four hundred acres of land were purchased in the heart of Britain's emerging motorway network, alongside Birmingham airport and astride the London/Birmingham electric rail-line.

What began as a dream became a reality with the completion of a six-year programme of activity with all stages completed on time. A vast co-ordinated exercise of planning, in which political and civil leaders, industrialists, design teams, exhibition specialists, contractors and a myriad work force linked together, was concluded.

The NEC was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen in February, 1976, and the statistics of this enormous complex are staggering. In addition to the Exhibition's halls and hotels, a picturesque 16-acre lake was constructed on the site containing 30 million gallons of water. Ten thousand fish were fed into the lake, which takes the water running off the 27-acre expense of the hall roofs.

The NEC is a town in its own right. Almost every conceivable service is at hand—a medical centre located in the Piazza, a lakeside terrace restaurant, a post office, newsagents, information centres, and many others. National Westminster Bank, one of the sponsors of the World Championships and bankers to the English Table Tennis Association, offer a full range of banking facilities, including foreign exchange at its branch, which is situated close to the entrance of Hall 5.

SPORTACUS '77 HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

Alongside the drama of the World Table Tennis Championships an exhibition will be staged to attract the whole family. All kinds of sports and leisure activities will be

featured by Sportacus '77, with the aim of making a visit to the championships of interest to parents and children alike.

Sportacus '77 is a new concept in sports exhibitions. It will be the first to feature live world class athletic endeavour as its centre-piece.



STIGA TABLES SELECTED FOR EUROPEAN SUPER LEAGUE

For the ninth season running, Stiga "Expert VM" tables have been selected by the European Table Tennis Federation for the Premier Division of the European League. During the season, long competition tables—produced by Stiga AB at their factory in Tranas, Sweden—will be sent out right across Europe from Russia in the East, to France and England in the West.

All the top European table tennis players will thus have the opportunity of regular match play on the "Expert VM". This is an important consideration for National Team Coaches as they prepare their squads for the 1977 Worlds, here in England, which will also be played on Stiga tables.



The Norwich Union Connection

by JOHN McDONNELL,

Public Relations Manager, Norwich Union

With the tempo quickening as the Jubilee World Championships draw closer, a tremendous amount of hard work is being put in by the sport's administrators to ensure that this event will be the greatest table tennis spectacular ever seen. I know this at first hand, since I am involved in some of the work myself. Without a doubt, these Championships are going to be one of the premier sporting occasions in England this century.

At Norwich Union Insurance we are thrilled to be the main sponsors of such an important event.

Our sponsorship will also include the Norwich Union International, at Thornaby, Cleveland, from 6th-8th January next year, together with the Norwich Union English Championships, which take place at Woking on 17th-19th February. A three-year contract has been agreed between Norwich Union and the E.T.T.A., carrying our support for the sport through to 1979 and involving some £50,000 over the three years.

There is often a Norwich Union connection with a sponsored event where you wouldn't perhaps expect it. For example, the leading company entrusted with the fire insurance on the National Exhibition Centre, the venue for the World Championships, turns out to be—Norwich Union. Those of you who go down to Woking next February for the English Championships, will no doubt see the impressive new town centre, opened by the Duchess of Kent last year. This project was developed by Norwich

Union, in partnership with the local council.

A similar town centre which owes its existence to Norwich Union is the one at Solihull, which has been so successful that it is currently being extended, and we were also a partner in the consortium which created the Birmingham Shopping Centre over New Street station—surely one of the most luxurious in Europe, and of which we are now the sole owner.

What, you may ask, is an insurance company doing in the world of property? Well, bricks and mortar form one of the principal investments into which we put our policyholders' money. People who take out life insurance with us expect their savings to be expertly invested, so that they get a good return when their policies mature. In other words, they want value for money.

We invest their premiums in such a way as to obtain the best return consistent with security.

A sizeable proportion of the money goes into Government securities, and the rest—more than half—is invested in industry and commerce. Besides supplying companies with fresh capital, Norwich Union provides the factories, warehouses, offices and shops which are essential to the economy.

The rents we receive from our properties are used, along with income from other investments, to pay bonuses on life policies. As Norwich Union has no shareholders, all the profits from investments are returned to policyholders in the form of bonuses.

Everyone wants to be certain their cash is properly invested. Norwich Union policyholders can see the proof of this for themselves whenever they go to Woking, Solihull, Birmingham or the many other towns where their money has gone into property. So long as the tills are ringing merrily in these town centres, they know that the profits are being made partly for their benefit!

Life insurance from Norwich Union is one of the very few commodities to have come down in price this year. People are living longer than they used to, because of better medical care. Taking this and other factors into account, we were able to knock several pence, and in some cases pounds, off premiums for most new life policies.

The policy we sell most of is the endowment, a form of insurance which has stood the test of time as a method of building up personal savings. With an endowment policy you pay premiums for a given number of years—you choose how long before you take out the policy. At the end of this term of years you collect a substantial amount of cash, or if you die before the term is up, this payment goes to your family. Most people choose an endowment policy "with profits". This costs extra, but in return a bonus is added to the policy each year, so that the eventual pay-out is constantly being increased. It's a well-tryed method of fighting inflation.

Another point to bear in mind is that nearly all life policies qualify for income tax relief. At the present moment you can claim back 17½ per cent of each premium from your tax authority. They make an adjustment to your income tax code so that you pay less tax, and this makes your investment an even better one.

For the young couple who have little or no spare cash, endowment policies may at first be too expensive. However, it's important to have life insurance cover in case the breadwinner meets an untimely end! The answer is to take out "term insurance", which gives a high degree of protection in return for a very low premium. This kind of policy pays out only if you die during a given period of years.

You may think that as you're perfectly healthy, there's absolutely no need to bother about insurance. Unfortunately, in spite of people living longer than they used to, out of four healthy men aged 25, only three will celebrate their 65th birthday.

Besides term and endowment policies, Norwich Union have a range of life insurance to meet the needs of almost everyone.

Norwich Union policies are first-class, both for sound management of your savings and protection of your family. So they should be—we've been in business since 1797.

See you at Birmingham in March/April next year!

AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT

The E.T.T.A. have officially appointed Wayfarers as their travel agents and have negotiated special rates with many hotels in Birmingham and London. Optional excursions have been arranged for visitors and any information required on accommodation and transport will be supplied by Wayfarers on request.

A special Wayfarers office will be open at the N.E.C. and a member of their staff will visit hotels on their schedule each day. And as Birmingham opens its arms to table tennis fans from all over the world, it also promises to provide an unforgettable visit and holiday.

**Message from MAURICE GOLDSTEIN
President of the E.T.T.A.**

This could be the only opportunity you will ever have to see a World Table Tennis Championship.

When the doors open on Hall 5 of the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on March 26th, more than 7,000 table tennis fans from all over the world will share the drama and excitement of this major international sporting event. But will you be one of them?

Orders for tickets are already flooding in. Overseas countries will be bringing their own supporters and team officials and will command a large proportion of the seats available. There is no time to lose.

An exclusive booking period until the end of November has been arranged for the table tennis community in this country. But that date is fast approaching.

SO, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY ORDERED, DO SO NOW. THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE. DON'T RISK LEAVING YOUR ORDER UNTIL A LATER DATE, BECAUSE YOU MAY BE DISAPPOINTED.

Once ticket applications are opened up to the general public, the Championships are sure to be a sell-out. It will be too late then to cry, "But I haven't got my ticket". They will all be sold well before the opening day.

Now is the time to decide how many tickets you want and on which days you want to be present. Complete the order form immediately and send it with your remittance to the championship booking office.

I will be at the World Championships. I intend to be one of the people who was there. I hope to see you there.

CLUB BADGES

- * Attractive Cloth Badges, made to your own design, in any quantity from 10 upwards.
- * Suitable for Blazers, Sweaters, etc.
- * LOW PRICES AND QUICK DELIVERY

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WOODFIELD 1-STAR OPEN

By JOHN PIKE

Nigel Eckersley and Karen Rogers were the two players that dominated this season's Woodfield tournament. After beating the holder, Paul Randall, in the semi-final, Nigel went on to beat Alan Fletcher in an all-action final. I say all-action because Eckersley, although not the best player in the country, must surely be the fittest. Birmingham's Pat Glynn did well to get to the last four but then found it an uphill struggle against the more experienced Fletcher.

It was good to see Dot Deeley back at the Woodfield after a lapse of three years but any hopes of a West Bromwich victory were dashed when she lost in the final of the women's singles to England's No. 9, Karen Rogers. Karen made it a Leicestershire double when, with Stephanie Jones, from the host club, they accounted for Dot Deeley and another Woodfield youngster, Shirley Cain, in the women's doubles final. Like Karen, Eckersley made his trip to Wolverhampton worthwhile by taking the men's doubles with Joe Kennedy, from Kent. This was a very good final against the Staffordshire pair, Isaac and Keates.

Cheshire stole the limelight again in the veterans' final when Derek Schofield beat Terry Donlan.

In the junior events it was local girl, Stephanie Jones, that took pride of place by winning the singles, and then with Rachael McKriel, from Warwickshire, the doubles.

Joe Kennedy and Malcolm Green finished with honours even in the boys' events. Joe beat Malcolm to take the singles, but in the doubles final, Malcolm and Nigel Thomas, from Wales, were too good for Joe and David Gannon.

Albert McIlreath and his committee had things nicely wrapped up by 9 o'clock, and as a result, there was another good crowd at the finals. With over £100 going to a local charity for handicapped children, the Woodfield club must again be congratulated on this fine effort.

Finally a tailpiece. The women's doubles final was halted for a short while when a black and white cat walked around the table.

Results:—

Men's Singles Semi-finals

N. Eckersley (Ch) bt P. Randall (Le) 8, 12.
A. Fletcher (Y) bt P. Glynn (Wa) 12, 14.

Final
ECKERSLEY bt Fletcher 10, 22.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

K. Rogers (Le) bt S. Jones (St) 18, -20, 14.
D. Deeley (St) bt J. Carr (St) 6, 30.

Final
ROGERS bt Deeley 14, 16.

Men's Doubles Final

ECKERSLEY/J. KENNEDY bt A. Isaac/B. Keates -16, 18, 14.

Women's Doubles Final

ROGERS/JONES bt Deeley/S. Cain (St) 13, 16.

Veterans' Final

D. SCHOFIELD (Ch) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 11, -15, 15.

Boys' Singles Final

KENNEDY bt M. Green (Sp) -7, 17, 15.

Boys' Doubles Final

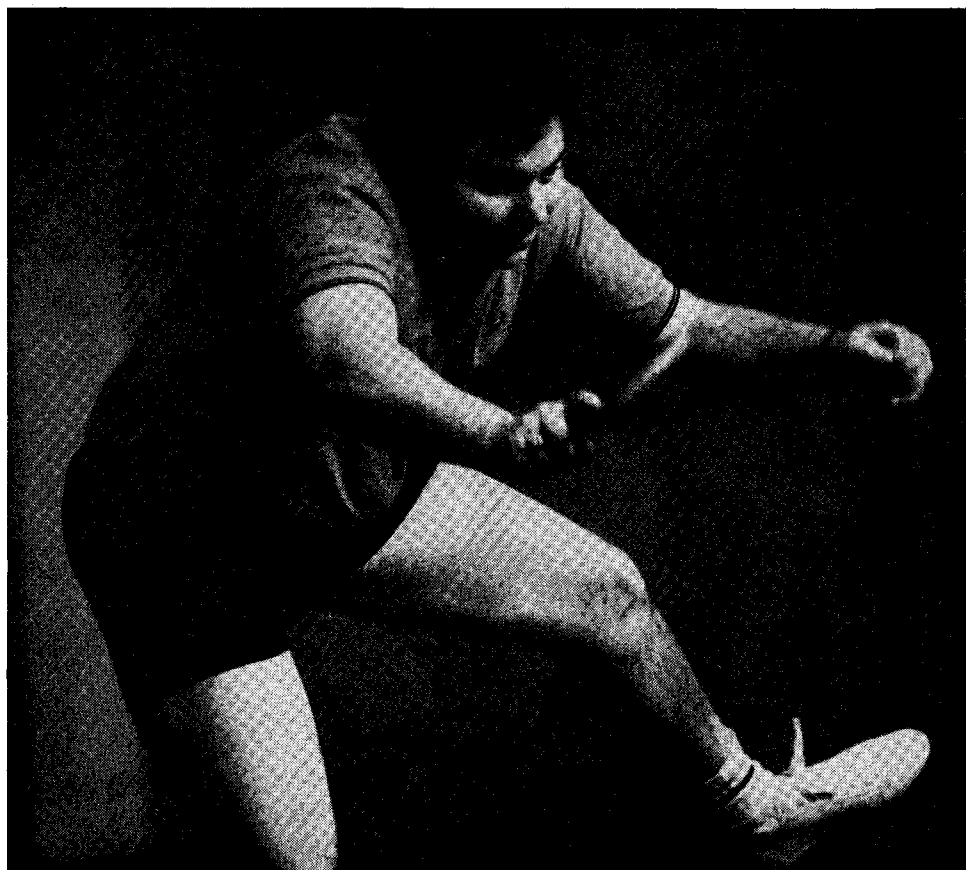
GREEN/N. THOMAS (Wales) bt Kennedy/D. Gannon 8, 20.

Girls' Singles Final

JONES bt L. Holmes (Derby) 12, 15.

Girls' Doubles Final

JONES/R. MCGRIEL (Wa) bt S. Watton (St)/Cain 15, 10.



Paul Randall (Leicestershire) who lost his men's singles title at the Woodfield.

Photo by Geoff Schofield, Oadby, Leicester.

CLWYD REPORT

By Roy Williams

EIGHT DEFEATS

In the eight County Championship fixtures at veteran, senior and junior level played to date, Clwyd have yet to show in any of the matches that they have the strength to win points. It is hoped, however, that things will improve in the remaining encounters.

On the brighter side the County fund-raising team are moving into action and cash is, if still a little slow, filling the association coffers. Noel Ralphs and his happy band at Caergwrie held a most successful jumble sale that raised almost £85. The County Supporters' Club is proving a success but most of the players are still shy in joining. After all it is the players that do get the benefit.

The domestic league programmes are now in full swing with more or less last season's champions leading their divisions. Pace-setters in Anglesey are Wylfa P.S. and Holyhead, followed by Llangefni. Caergwrie B.B. lead the East Flint League with Connaught Quay in close attendance. Lansdowne 'A' top Div. 1 of the Llandudno League, with Colwyn Bay Cricket Club in second place after losing by 4-6 recently to the leaders.

Clwyd, Oriol House and Rhyl Labour are the Rhyl first division joint leaders and these teams look set to provide the closest finish for years in this league. Nomads and S.O.H. Oswestry dominate the Wrexham scene as in past seasons.

The Northern entry for the Club team championship of Wales is very poor this year, only two leagues having sent in their entries. The National competition is the oldest in the world, having first been played for in 1923. The two remaining teams will visit the National Sports Centre, Cardiff, in March, for the final pool with the South Wales winners.

In the past month Julie Ralphs was

selected for Wales v Scotland in the European League, whilst Rhyl's 12-year-old Susan Powell won her first open event at the Swansea Open, when she won the U-12 girls' singles.

The draw for the Club championship (North) is:—

Round One

Rhyl Clwyd 'C' v Llandudno Drummond 'A'
Police H.Q. Colwyn Bay v Rhyl Clwyd 'B'
Doera 'A' Llandudno v Llandudno Drum. 'B'
Lansdowne 'A' Llandudno v K.L. Sports S.C.
Lansdowne 'B' Llandudno v Oriol House

St. Asaph

Byes

Rhyl Clwyd 'A', U.C.N.W. Bangor, Colwyn Bay Cricket Club.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

RELEGATION FIGHT

With the early County matches now played, the Senior Premier side, without the services of Andy Barden, nursing an injured wrist, is now fighting to try to avoid relegation. Survival seems likely following the 7-2 win over Cheshire, along with the narrow defeat to Essex.

The Junior Premier team are now one of the favourites for that title whilst the Junior second team are also unbeaten.

In the County Closed Championships, held at the new South Ruislip Leisure Centre, the men's singles title went, for the first time, to David Jemmett, who beat young David Wells in the final. Wells had previously come through the more difficult half with wins over Laurie Landry and Dick Philps, who had previously got the better of the favourite, Bob Aldrich.

Sheila Hamilton was also a first time winner of the women's singles title whilst Wells retained the boys' singles and Mandy Reeves won the girls'. The new veteran events went to Don Smith (formerly a Somerset County player) and Mary Symes.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GALLERY

by Dave Foulser

MIXED FORTUNES

Last month saw the first two County matches of the season which were both played at home at C.E.G.B. in Gloucester. The venue was an extremely fine one and I understand all County matches this season are to be played there. The junior match was played in the afternoon against Worcestershire which resulted in a 5-5 draw which was an encouraging start when one considers that three players were making their County debut and the other two were only playing in their second match. Both Martin Lane and John Turner each won their two sets whilst Andrew Golding won one. The girls, Cathy Robb and Julie Philips, failed to gain any success but were unlucky to lose the doubles deuce in the third to much more experienced opposition.

The senior's match was much more disappointing, losing 4-6 to Worcestershire 2nd team. After an indifferent start, Dave Harvey played well to overcome the defences of Belcher and Wood, whereas Willie Dawe was completely out of touch and was easily beaten in both his sets. Junior Guy Greening, making his senior debut, lost both his sets, but in his second, against Wood, played the game of his life, going down -10, 17, -17 playing in a manner few thought him capable of. For the first time for many, many years the County won both its women's singles.

Christine Iacopi, another player making her debut, won her set two-straight, as did junior Vanessa Cruwys. However, they did not seem to put it together in the doubles, losing -15 in the third. There was a County Selection Committee meeting immediately following these two matches, to select teams for the junior away match with Shropshire, and for the senior match away to Dorset. The junior team remains the same with Graham Slack and Jackie Cox as reserves. The senior team sees two changes:—Steve Moreman returns to the team in place of Willie Dawe whilst Jan Foulser will make her debut in place of Vanessa Cruwys, who is unavailable. Due to the fact that Cheltenham has not had a women town team for some years, Jan will be playing for the County, not having played for her own town, which is a little strange.

However, that particular problem is soon to be remedied, for Cheltenham have appointed Jan to be Women's Town Match Secretary and a squad of both women and junior girls has been formed. Regular practise and coaching sessions are now taking place and Jan has written to 16 other towns inviting friendly matches both home and away. It is further hoped to commence a Town Women's League, starting next season and the 16 associations, all within an approximate 50 mile radius of Cheltenham, have been asked to complete a questionnaire seeking their views on whether they wish to join the league and on what basis it should be run. The response has so far been excellent with several other towns interested and friendly matches in course of being arranged.

Cheltenham men opened their season with a 7-3 victory over West Bromwich in the Midland League, with Harvey unbeaten, although extended to a third game by two of his opponents. Moreman played well in support, winning a couple and only lost the other deuce in the third, whilst Adrian Vale, making his debut, won one. The veterans were less fortunate when they visited Birmingham, first taking a 2-0 lead then finding themselves 2-5 down and eventually losing 4-6. Peter Slack won two and yet Alan Williams and Sam Evans only won one each, but both beat the player that Peter lost to, Cheltenham juniors

opened up with a fine 7-3 victory over Chesterfield with Greening, Turner and Slack all winning two, all being beaten by the defence of G. Parsons. The following match saw them off form with Slack and Turner unsuccessful although Greening managed two successes and partnered Slack in the doubles.

Stroud chalked up their biggest-ever win in the Midland League when their men trounced Nuneaton 9-1 away from home. Alan Giles and John Heathcote recorded maximums whilst Roger Webb won two. Heathcote is new to the area and looks a useful acquisition for the Stroud side and, once he gets some more match practise in, possibly the County.

Gloucester Veterans opened their programme with a home match against Nottingham 'B' but they went down 4-6 which was a great disappointment as they had included former England international, Bryan Merrett. His defence still showed great class and his scores are worth recording: 7 and 4, 6 and 6, and 7 and 7. I will spare his opponents' blushes by not naming them. Ray Philips had a terrible night which he will wish to forget quickly, whilst Brian Greaves defeated D. Pearson 21 and 19 to obtain their other point.

The Stroud and District T.T.A., in conjunction with the County Association and Stroud Leisure Centre, recently had the privilege of staging a friendly match between England and Russia the evening after England's 7-0 humiliation by Russia at Ipswich the previous night. An international has never been staged at Stroud before, and considering the short notice given, a magnificent job was done, thanks for which should be given and recorded to Les Smith, who was responsible for much of the organisation.

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

SENIOR RANKINGS

The Senior County trials for men were recently held at Byker Community Centre and resulted in the following ranking list:—

1, Andrew Clark; 2, Alan Jones; 3, Chris Shepherd; 4, Fred Short; 5, Malcolm McMaster; 6, Tony McQueen; 7, Eddie Thomas; 8, Walter Rossiter; 9, Peter Whiteman; 10, George Cole; 11, Glenn McCardle; 12, Peter Gorman; 13, Dave Donalson; 14, Tom Peel; 15, Steve Whittaker; 16, Stephen Robinson.

Alan Jones was unable to be present at the trials, but was ranked at No. 2 in accordance with the opinions of the County Executive Committee.

Trials for the women have not as yet been held, so the present ranking list is based on performances as at the end of last season. The list is as follows:—

1, Phil Clark; 2, Pat Small; 3, Pauline Jackson; 4, Christine Joyce; 5, Valerie Smith; 6, Kit Cheung; 7, Joan Leslie; 8, Julie Hobson; 9, Ann Henderson; 10, Daphne Russell; 11, Margaret Hobson; 12, Vicky Frankland; 13, Lucille Clark.

However, as several of the women have indicated their unavailability for regular play for a variety of reasons, it appears that the list will have to be revised at the first opportunity to allow for present availability and current form.

November was a busy month for the three Northumberland County teams. On November 6, the first team and the juniors travelled to Huddersfield Y.M.C.A. to meet the Yorkshire II senior and junior teams, but both suffered heavy defeats, losing 2-8 and 0-10 respectively. The first team's two sets were gained by Andrew Clark and Fred Short, who both had singles wins over Michael Stephenson. The second team did nothing to lighten a day of gloom when they lost their match at home to Lanca-

shire II by 1-9, Lucille Clark being the lone winner in her singles against M. Sweeney.

As the County fixture list for November 20 involved all three teams being at home on the same day, the second team match against Cumbria and the junior match against Sir Clwyd were both brought forward to November 13. This proved to be a lucky move for the second team, as they finally broke their two-year run of defeats by beating Cumbria 6-4 in a tense and exciting battle where fortunes constantly see-sawed first one way and then the other. I may risk sounding biased, but this was one of the most interesting and absorbing matches it has ever been my privilege to witness, with the result being in doubt until the very last set—which Tony McQueen took at 19 in the third against John Willis after having had a lot of trouble keeping his feet during the earlier part of the evening!

Glenn McCardle, who won both his singles, and Valerie Smith, who was undefeated in both her singles and women's doubles, both showed in their first season out of junior play, that they have successfully completed the often difficult transition to the senior side.

The scores are shown below:—

Northumberland 6, Cumbria 4

Men's Singles

M. McMaster bt B. Towell 15, 16; lost to D. Kirkpatrick 19, -18, -17.

A. McQueen lost to Towell -15, -13; bt J. Willis -18, 19, 19.

G. McCardle bt Kirkpatrick -15, 16, 21; bt Willis -15, 16, 17.

Women's Singles

Miss P. Jackson lost to Miss J. Pachul 14, -19, -18.

Miss V. Smith bt Miss H. Addy 14, 18.

Men's Doubles

McMaster/McCardle lost to Towell/Willis -16, -11.

Women's Doubles

Miss Jackson/Miss Smith bt Miss Pachul/Miss Addy 19, 20.

The junior team unfortunately suffered their third defeat in succession, this time by 3-7 against Sir Clwyd juniors, who had made what surely must be the longest journey ever in Junior 2nd North from North Wales to Newcastle-upon-Tyne—having left at 6 a.m. to ensure an early arrival for the afternoon match starting at 2-30 p.m. However, from Northumberland's point of view, this was a much improved performance, with the young players now beginning to benefit from regular play at this level. Eddie Thomas had a good win over Clwyd's Alun Williams, and 12-years-old Bernard Clark scored his first singles win when he beat Mark Byles. The other set was gained by Julie Hobson, who also scored her first singles win by beating Sandra Bennett.

The first team were due to complete a busy three weeks on November 20, when they met Lancashire at the new Eldon Square Recreation Centre.

The current Northumberland League tables have just been received and leading their Divisions are: Premier—B.B.C. House 'B'; Div. 1—Harrogate House 'A'; Div. 2A—Cramlington Fire 'A'; Div. 2B—Delaval C.C. 'A'; Div. 3A—Woodlands Pk. 'B'; Div. 3B—St. Wilfrid's 'B'; Div. 3C—Sevcon 'A'; Div. 4A—National Carriers 'A'; Div. 4B—Byker C.C. (H). These are the positions after seven weeks of the League season.

The Newcastle Schools' Table Tennis League, organised by Phil Clark, has also started its new season, and matches are being played at the Eldon Square Recreation Centre. The formation of a senior league, intermediate league and girls' league has ensured enjoyable matches for the younger players of different age groups and standards, and there is every hope that the League will prove a profitable source of future talent at junior and, eventually, senior County level.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Christopher Hillan

SENIOR RANKINGS

To put first things first I will give our senior ranking lists which have now come to hand. They are:—

Men—1, L. Wooding; 2, A. Watson; 3, T. Clark; 4, J. Leith; 5, R. Harman; 6, S. Brindle; 7, J. Cooper; 8, C. Leslie; 9, B. Busbridge; 10, P. Leckie; 11, J. Davey.

Women—1, J. Williams; 2, S. Lines; 3, S. James; 4, B. Stevens; 5, C. Darcey; 6, I. Cooper; 7, J. Thomas.

Our County Championship programme duly got under way on November 6, at Bletchley Leisure Centre, with our newly-formed junior and senior second teams both entertaining Essex third teams. We did not realistically expect to get much change from both the Essex teams, bearing in mind their considerable success last season, and this proved to be the case with the juniors going down 0-10 and the seniors 1-9.

But far from casting gloom over our coaches and selectors alike, once these results are put into perspective and individual performances analysed, a certain amount of encouragement can be gained, and certainly has been by the writer. Firstly, Bucks has never previously had a junior second team and the idea of having one this season, and hopefully in future ones, is to give juniors and especially cadets, early experience of County play, providing, of course, that they have attained a good enough playing standard. This system is designed to eventually produce players of senior first team potential who have age on their side and nevertheless have a great deal of County experience behind them.

Such an example is Chris Leslie, who picked up our solitary win against Essex and clearly matched his opponents in terms of class. Chris is still in his last season as a junior and on the basis of his display against Essex is a very serious contender for a senior first team place. His increasing status as a player is, however, largely, if not totally due to his father, who has forked out both time and money to travel the length and breadth of the country to coaching sessions, tournaments and County matches for his son's benefit.

This effort has to be made on a County level if we are to improve on our present second-rate playing status, but this does involve a lot of time being given by willing helpers and the players themselves. But perhaps most important of all is that time alone will not bring success to our players—our players must be prepared to travel to find that success. With juniors this is invariably meaning heavy financial backing from parents, but it is hoped that if our selection committees succeed in their task of getting a fund-raising system operational then this financial burden will be eased.

Both cadets in the junior second team against Essex thirds exceeded many people's expectation of them with Simon Skeet turning in the best Bucks performance of the match by running the Essex No. 8, Richard Veale, very close before going down -13, 13, -16. Stuart Lines, with yet another season to go as a cadet, showed a good temperament in the very first set in going down by only 16 and 20 to Essex's Tony Penney. Both Simon and Stuart, who are ranked 13 and 12 in the County respectively, easily matched if not surpassed the performance of our No. 5, David Owen, and it is from this fact that encouragement for the future can be gained. Our two girls, Jo Catchpole and Susan Harvey, showed plenty of determination, but Jo was not surprisingly out-classed by Yvette Brown, while with a little more patience Susan could have made life very difficult for Kay Tillyar.

As mentioned above, the biggest ray of hope provided by our senior seconds against Essex thirds later in the day, was provided

by Chris Leslie, who beat Brian Mailey 19 and 18 and fully extended Steve Whiteley before going down 15, -16, -14. Steve Brindle, playing in his first representative match for Bucks, nearly picked up a win against Mailey in the final set of the evening but lost out by 19 in the third game. John Leith, obviously feeling the pressure of his first game as captain, was completely off form, holding out no real hope in either of his singles. But once he settles down to his new role I am sure that improved performances can be expected. Sue James, after appearing somewhat overawed in the first game of her singles against Linda Barrow, settled down well in the second to demonstrate the improvement she has made since last season. Brenda Stevens, back on the County scene after a lengthy absence, started very nervously against Tina Pickard but made the Essex girl struggle for her win once she settled down in the second game. Brenda could well be a big asset to the County when she fully recovers her match play sharpness.

The following day our senior first team started off their campaign away to Bedfordshire, and considering that we have a much better balanced side this season, the resulting draw could be considered as a slight disappointment. Les Wooding, playing as though he had never been away from the County team for the past few seasons, won both his singles in impressive fashion but Alec Watson, far from his best, struggled to beat Derek Holden in three and went down by -18 in the third to Dave Rawlinson a set which finished exactly 10 seconds short of expedite.

After an uncertain start, Tony Clark eventually overcame Holden by producing some real fireworks in the third game, but in the final set Tony succumbed by 15, -19, -18 against Charlie Major, who, on his own admission, was guilty of daylight robbery in gaining the win. Jean Williams, desperately short of match practice after a lengthy sojourn in Canada, lost her singles against Barbara Hammond by the amazing margin of 8 and 10. Perhaps somebody could let me know the last time that Jean was handed out such a beating, as you would have to go back a very long way to find it. Stephanie Lines has yet to master the art of playing steady defenders, and Joyce Reeves exposed this weakness to the full. But this is only Stephanie's first season out of junior status, and with time on her side will no doubt establish for herself a regular place in this team in years to come.

Happily to report, the Wat-Wood doubles combination carried on exactly where it left off and it would not surprise me to see it going through the season unbeaten. The same hope is also extended to our junior first team, who played their first match on November 20—against Lincolnshire II's, Chris Leslie and Sam Harmer can be relied upon to win most of their sets as this team bids for promotion to Div. 2, while the up-and-coming Ian Haines should also be very successful in playing at No. 3. These boys should more than compensate for the inexperience of our girls, for whom Christine Bahryj has yet to fulfil her great potential and the young cadet Dawn Risby may find the going tough in her first season of County play. Our three other teams played Hertfordshire on the same day and reports on all these matches will appear next month.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by Caroline Reeves

SENIORS STRENGTHENED

Berkshire's senior side, playing in 2nd Division West, once again hope to win as they did last season. Perhaps, this time, they will be successful at the Challenge Matches. In this event last season they were narrowly beaten into third place by Leicestershire.

The seniors are strengthened, albeit only temporarily, by Luxembourger Jim Cloos, and Sweden's Mats Weibass. Recent rankings are as follows:—

Men

1. D. Reeves (N)
2. S. Heaps (R)
3. J. Cloos (R)
4. M. Weibass (R)
5. A. Wellman (R)
6. S. Douglas (R)
7. P. Trott (R)
8. D. Basden (R)
9. J. Stokes (R)
10. A. Foster (R)
11. R. Halliday (M)
12. R. Johnson (R)

Women

1. K. Witt (R)
2. C. Reeves (N)
3. M. Smith (N)
4. J. Purslow (R)
5. A. Gordon (R)
6. C. Basden (R)
7. Jo Douglas (R)
8. J. Thorpe (R)

Boys

1. D. Reeves (N)
2. R. Halliday (M)
3. R. Johnson (R)
4. M. Beck (R)
5. D. Gloster (M)
6. D. Barr (N)
7. B. Johnson (N)
8. M. Bartholomew (M)
9. R. Sym (R)
10. T. Heaps (R)

Girls

1. K. Witt (R)
2. M. Smith (N)
3. J. Purslow (R)
4. A. Gordon (R)
5. Jo Douglas (R)
6. L. Taylor (R)
7. G. Heath (N)

Key: M—Maidenhead; N—Newbury; R—Reading.

At national level Karen Witt still retains her No. 8 women's position following some good wins which include Shelagh Hession. But more pleasing for her was to be selected to play in the Scandinavian Open in Sweden. Other rankings are:—David Reeves No. 3 Junior boy, and Robert Johnson, "A" Group boys.

Karen retains her No. 1 girls' position with Mandy Smith (9), Jill Purslow (12) and Alison Gordon (Group A). In the Cadets, Bryon Johnson comes in at No. 7 and Alison completes the double for our girls at No. 1.

Our Junior County teams have made a promising start with the Premier side defeating Essex 6-4. Robert Johnson was the star, taking both his singles. Our Junior seconds beat Hants I 6-4 but lost to Middlesex 3-7. Within the County the leagues take part in an annual inter-town tournament played in two stages.

The first stage was played at Bulmarsh Sports Centre where Reading and Maidenhead dominated the scene, Reading leading the Men's Div. 1, Women and Girls'. Maidenhead lead in Men's II, Boys and Cadet boys.

Maidenhead can be particularly pleased because their younger boys are now showing up as being a strong group within the County which up to now has been dominated by the products of the Reading coaching scheme.

Stan Roper, Hugh Bartholomew and others can now be pleased with the results of their Maidenhead coaching scheme. An interesting development has taken place in the Reading area where the Alan Dines IMPACT Group have joined with the Y.M.C.A. Club to use their premises in a joint venture calling themselves the Crusaders.

This will give some of the younger players a chance to play in Division 1 of the Reading League. Currently, however, the league is dominated by the Omega Club, who have already made national impact by losing to Ormesby in the final of the National Club Championships (Women's Section).

16th BELGIAN OPEN

by Geo. R. Yates

Not so illustrious as on past occasions was the entry for 16th Belgian Open Championships played over the period October 30—Nov. 1, at the Complexe Sportif, Charleroi, but the fierceness of competition was in no way diminished.

Sweden, youthfully represented by Lars Franklin, Tommy Danielsson, Eva Ström-vall and Brigitta Olsson, took both the men's and women's team events but they could only manage two out of the five individual titles.

Federal Germany's Wilfried Lieck took the men's singles at the final expense of Holland's Bert van der Helm, the counter-part women's event being won by Miss Olsson, whose final victim was the former English international, Judy Williams, making her first representative appearance in the Dutch national colours at the age of 32.

Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis did England proud by winning the men's doubles, their final victims being the Swedes Franklin and Danielsson, whose compatriots, Olsson and Ström-vall, took the women's pairs. Success, at last, for the Dutch in the mixed, the title being won by v.d. Helm and the young Bettine Vriesekoop.

Day and Jarvis, in the men's team event, fell in the semis to Sweden, who accounted for England on the distaff side in the final.

Jarvis had the distinction of being top seed in the men's singles, but after wins over Federal Germany's Engelbert Hüging (20 in the 5th), J. van Spanje, of the Netherlands, and Franklin, it was v.d. Helm who stopped further progress.

Lieck, seeded No. 2, had Day to contend with in the semis, at which stage the Cambridge star took his departure after good

wins over Dominique Lhomme, of Belgium, fellow left-hander Eric Hanonge, of France, and Ralf Wosik, of Federal Germany.

Efficient Belgian officials stuck to their allotted tasks throughout the three days, which sped by all too quickly for myself and the companionship I had enjoyed with Louis and Mavis van Gelder, the President, and his wife, of the Federation Royale Belge de Tennis de Table.

TEAM EVENTS

MEN—Preliminary Round
Belgium 'B' 3, France 'B' 2
Round 1
Sweden 3, Belgium 'B' 0
Spain 'A' 3, Luxembourg 'A' 2
Netherlands 'A' 3, Hainaut Province 0
England w.o., Federal Germany 'B' scr.
Federal Germany 3, Luxembourg 'B' 0
Wales 3, Netherlands 'B' 0
G. Davies bt H. Gootzen 19, 14; A. Griffiths bt J. van Spanje -13, 18, 22; Davies/Griffiths bt Gootzen/v. Spanje 17, -12, 13.
Belgium 'A' w.o., Scotland scr.
France 'A' 3, Spain 'B' 0
Quarter-finals
Sweden 3, Spain 'A' 0
England 3, Netherlands 'A' 1
P. Day lost to B. v.d. Helm -21, 17, -16; N. Jarvis bt B. v.d. Ham 15, 15; bt v.d. Helm -16, 18, 16; Day/Jarvis bt v.d. Ham/v.d. Helm 10, 10.
Federal Germany 3, Wales 0
E. Hüging bt Griffiths 13, 14; W. Lieck bt Davies 13, 18; Hüging/Lieck bt Davies/Griffiths 13, 13.
France 'A' 3, Belgium 'A' 2
Semi-finals
Sweden 3, England 2
L. Franklin lost to Jarvis -13, -13; T. Danielsson bt Day 13, 18; Danielsson/Franklin bt Day/Jarvis 19, 15; Danielsson lost to Jarvis -19, 19, -10; Franklin bt Day -20, 12, 13.
Federal Germany 'A' 3, France 'A' 0
Lieck bt F. Vinitzki -22, 14, 10; R. Wosik bt M. Hoffstetter 14, 15; Lieck/Wosik bt Hoffstetter/Vinitzki 16, 11.
Final
SWEDEN 3, Federal Germany 0
Danielsson bt Lieck 19, -12, 12; Franklin bt Hüging -18, 20, 18; Danielsson/Franklin bt Lieck/Wosik 19, 17.
WOMEN—Round 1
Belgium 'B' 3, Spain 1
Luxembourg 'A' 3, France 'B' 1
Luxembourg 'B' 3, France 'A' 2
Belgium 'A' 3, Netherlands 'B' 0
Quarter-finals
England 3, Belgium 'B' 0
L. Howard bt C. D'Hondt 2, 15; C. Knight bt C. Verachttert 13, -18, 18; Howard/Knight bt D'Hondt/Verachttert 16, 15.
Netherlands 'A' 3, Luxembourg 'A' 2
Federal Germany 3, Luxembourg 'B' 1
Sweden 3, Belgium 1

Semi-finals
England 3, Netherlands 1
Howard bt B. Vriesekoop 18, 11; Knight lost to J. Williams -18, -15; Howard/Knight bt Vriesekoop/Williams 14, 15; Knight bt Vriesekoop 18, -13, 19.
Sweden 3, Federal Germany 1
E. Ström-vall bt S. Wenzel 8, 10; B. Olsson lost to M. Kneip -18, 13, -14; Olsson/Ström-vall bt Kneip/Wenzel 15, 9; Ström-vall bt Kneip 11, -18, 14.
Final
SWEDEN 3, England 0
Olsson bt Howard 17, 18; Ström-vall bt Knight 19, 12; Olsson/Ström-vall bt Howard/Knight -17, 14, 18.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Men's Singles—Quarter-finals
N. Jarvis (En) bt L. Franklin (Sv) 6, 13, -19, -19, 15.
B. v.d. Helm (NI) bt D. Sanchez (Es) 20, 13, 11.
P. Day (En) bt R. Wosik (D) 6, 13, 19.
W. Lieck (D) bt T. Danielsson (Sv) 13, -19, 13, 12.
Semi-finals
v.d. Helm bt Jarvis 9, 15, -18, 17.
Lieck bt Day -15, 16, 18, 12.
Final
LIECK bt v.d. Helm 16, 19, 19.
Women's Singles—Quarter-finals
J. Williams (NI) bt L. Howard (En) 13, 11, 18.
E. Ström-vall (Sv) bt M-F. Germinat (B) 20, 15, 8.
M. Kneip (D) bt J. Detaille (B) 18, 10, 11.
B. Olsson (Sv) bt B. Vriesekoop (NI) 13, 18, 14.
Semi-finals
Williams bt Ström-vall -16, 18, 9, -11, 18.
Olsson bt Kneip 16, 18, 17.
Final
OLSSON bt Williams 19, 16, 12.
Men's Doubles—Semi-finals
Danielsson/Franklin bt P. Lupon (Es)/Sanchez -17, 21, 7, 11.
Day/Jarvis bt B. v.d. Ham(NI)/v.d. Helm 15, 6, 16.
Final
DAY/JARVIS bt Danielsson/Franklin -16, -16, 12, 18, 16.
Women's Doubles—Semi-finals
M. Wagemakers (NI)/Williams bt M-F. Germinat/V. Germinat 20, 13, 16.
Olsson/Ström-vall bt C. D'Hondt/C. Verachttert (B) -19, 18, 17, -14, 15.
Final
OLSSON/ STROMVALL bt Wagemakers/Williams -11, 13, 16, 20.
Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals
v.d. Helm/Vriesekoop bt Jarvis/Howard 16, 14, -19, 16.
J. Feliu (Es)/Kneip bt Day/C. Knight (En) 14, 15, 21.
Final
v.d. HELM/VRIESEKOOP bt Feliu/Kneip 16, 13, -18, 13.
Consolation Men's Singles—Semi-finals
C. Duvivier (B) bt F. Lefebvre (B) 21, 15.
B. Dormal (B) bt D. Lhomme (B) -15, 9, 21.
Final
DUVIVIER bt Dormal -18, 17, 20.
Consolation Women's Singles—Semi-finals
C. Risch (Lux) bt N. Deltour (Lux) 17, 17.
Verachttert bt J. Dom (Lux) -7, 16, 16.
Final
RISCH bt Verachttert 17, 14.

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Racket Sports 1977

RACKET SPORTS STAMPS

Four sports played and watched by millions of enthusiasts around the world but which originated substantially in their present form in Britain, are the subjects of four special stamps which will be issued by the Post Office on January 12.

They will be the first of the Post Office's special commemorative stamp issues for 1977.

The 8½p stamp features lawn tennis, which developed on the croquet lawns of England in the latter half of the 19th century and the first club was set up at Leamington Spa in 1872.

The 10p stamp is devoted to table tennis, first played by undergraduates and British Army officers around 1885 and which now has over nine million players registered with national bodies world-wide.

Both these issues are particularly appropriate for 1977 since the year will mark the Centenary of the Wimbledon Championships at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Squash, the boom sport of this decade but first played by the boys of Harrow Public School around 1850, is the subject of the 11p stamp. Over a million people play the game in Britain alone and there is an explosion of interest throughout the U.S.A. and Europe.

The 13p stamp features Badminton, originated at the Duke of Beaufort's seat of that name near Bristol. The Badminton Association, which established the rules of the game, was set up at a meeting in Hamp-

shire in 1893 and the International Badminton Federation, which has its headquarters in London, will stage its first official world championships in 1977—in Malmo, Sweden.

The tennis stamp is printed in black, light-grey and green; that for table tennis is black, emerald, grey and blue-green; the stamp on squash in lemon, orange-red, grey and black, and the badminton issue in reddish-brown, grey, black and bright reddish-violet. The stamps will be the first Post Office special issue to be produced on phosphor-coated paper.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS T.T. ASSOCIATION

By DAVID LOMAS

Competitions Secretary Eddie Mitchell reports that according to preliminary information received, the entries for the National School Team Championships are up on last year's record total. All counties must submit final entries by December 17. The Area Finals take place mostly on the weekend of January 15-16, at 12 venues up and down the country with the three Regional Finals on the following weekend and the Grand Finals on February 12, at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire.

The E.S.T.A. and Stiga have renewed the agreement which will involve the sponsorship of the team championships, the individual championships, the international match against Scotland and also the Official Handbook. Stiga equipment will be

used at these events and Dunlop balls have also been adopted.

At the last Executive Council Meeting, Mr. Bob Wood, of Blackpool, who is Vice-Chairman of the Association, was elected as Chairman of the Selectors. Other selectors are: Eddie Mitchell (Hereford and Worcester—Secretary), Philip Burwell (West Midlands), Rea Balmford (Humberside), John Barber (Hereford and Worcester).

Please note the following amendments to the Official Handbook:—

AVON—R. P. Dawkins, Merrywood Boys' School, Daventry Road, Bristol, BS4 1QD.

CORNWALL—N. Haley, Callington School, Callington.

ISLE OF WIGHT—J. Prean, 12 Marlborough Road, Ryde, I.o.W., PO33 1AA.

LEICESTERSHIRE—R. E. King, Lutterworth G.S., Bitteswell Road, Lutterworth, LE17 4EW.

KENT COUNTY—Mrs. S. Coombs, 9 Lapwings, New Barn, Longfield, Dartford, DA3 7NH.

SUSSEX 2-STAR OPEN

by John Woodford
POPULAR VICTORY

Ian Horsham (Essex) was overdue to win the Sussex Open after a number of attempts from his steady position around 8 or 9 in the England ranking list. So it was a popular victory with acknowledgments to Chris Sewell (Avon) for creating the only major shock in the men's singles by taking out Alan Hydes.

Hydes was also taken out of the England rankings shortly after his surprise defeat at Hastings, following that he re-transferred his allegiance to Yorkshire from Sussex for the County Championships.

Sewell's apparent reward for winning the Sussex Open was a move up the England list from 20 to 13, making him the sort of player who will welcome the chance of participating in the elimination contest for the extra England places in the world championships, even if it means a trip to Thornaby.

It was encouraging to see youngsters bursting through, especially Chris Sewell and then Karen Witt in the women's singles. Karen gave the No. 1 seed, Shelagh Hession, a number of anxious moments in the final but experience won the day.

The 41st Sussex Open attracted well over 200 players, but no one from the international squad on this occasion. Regrettable, because the organisers have always gone out of their way to provide an attractive, sociable weekend in a pleasing atmosphere sadly lacking in tournaments now held in the huge, impersonal sports centres.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals
I. Horsham (E) bt M. Mitchell (Mx) 12, -15, 13.

C. Sewell (Av) bt A. Hydes (Y) -25, 20, 18.
Final
HORSHAM bt Sewell -13, 16, 13.

Women's Singles—Final
S. HESSION (E) bt K. Witt (Bk) 16, -15, 14.

Men's Doubles—Final
D. BROWN (E)/HORSHAM bt J. Kitchener/(Sk)/Mitchell 14, -17, 14.

Women's Doubles—Final
A. MITCHELL (Mx)/WITT bt A. Brackenridge (NZ)/Hession 20, -20, 17.

Mixed Doubles—Final
MITCHELL/HESSION bt B. Tyler (Mx)/M. Smith (Bk) 16, 17.

Veteran Singles—Final
B. MEISEL (K) bt G. Chapman (Sy) 12, 18,

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GLC and North Middlesex Open

After two days of play in the combined G.L.C./North Middlesex Open Championships, at Alexandra Palace, England's women took most of the laurels in the finals held on Sunday, October 31. The event was sponsored, for the third year running, by Fairview Estates Limited, the Enfield-based property company, who were joined this year by Ascot Sports and the G.L.C. Together, the three organisations provided £1,000 prize money.

Karen Witt, 16-year-old England No. 1 Girl, and Women's No. 8, had a fine weekend and collected the G.L.C. Women's Singles prize, defeating Shelagh Hession, the England No. 5. In the North Middlesex Competition she took the Girls' Singles title from holder Angela Mitchell.

Predictably, perhaps, Karen lost the North Middlesex Singles final to England No. 1, Jill Hammersley, who was making her first playing appearance since her recent operation for appendicitis. Jill, with Shelagh Hession, again defeated Karen Witt in company with Anita Stevenson, in the final of the Women's Doubles.

Desmond Douglas, England No. 2, beat Robert Potton in an exciting, though predictable match for the North Middlesex Men's Singles title. Although the men were on good form, Sunday night really was Ladies' Night!

Results:— **G.L.C. CLOSED**

Men's Singles—Final

D. BROWN (E) bt D. Tan (Mi) (£100 and £35).

Women's Singles—Final

K. WITT (Bk) bt S. Hession (E) (£50 and £17).

Boys' Singles (U-17)—Final

J. KENNEDY (K) bt A. Proffitt (Mi) (£40 and £15).

Girls' Singles (U-17)—Final

E. SAYER (E) bt K. Vincent (Sy) (£20 and £7).

Boys' Singles (U-15)—Final

PROFFITT bt D. Charlery (E) (£30 and £10).

Girls' Singles (U-15)—Final

H. WILLIAMS (Mi) bt A. McMahon (£15 and £5).

Boys' Singles (U-13)—Final

J. SOUTER (Mi) bt M. Oakley (Sy) (£20 and £7).

Girls' Singles (U-13)—Final

WILLIAMS bt L. Garbet (Sy) (£10 and £3).

NORTH MIDDLESEX 2-STAR OPEN

Men's Singles—Final

D. DOUGLAS (Wa) bt R. Potton (E) (£100).

Women's Singles—Final

J. HAMMERSLEY (Bu) bt K. Witt (Bk) (£50).

Men's Doubles—Final

J. KITCHENER (Sk)/M. MITCHELL (Mi) (£20 each) bt S. Heaps/J. Weilbass (Bk).

Women's Doubles—Final

HAMMERSLEY/HESSION (Ex) (£10 each) bt A. Stevenson (Le)/Witt.

Mixed Doubles—Final

D. PARKER (La)/STEVENSON (£7.50 each) bt A. Clayton (Y)/Hammersley.

Boys' Singles—Final

M. SHUTTLE (Sy) bt D. Newman (E) (£20).

Girls' Singles—Final

WITT bt A. Mitchell (Mi) (£10).

Veteran Singles—Final

P. D'ARCY (Ch) bt F. Lockwood (E) (£10).



Mr. Kenneth J. Oliver, Director of Fairview Estates Limited, the Enfield-based property company, presents the L. Hoffman Cup for the Women's Doubles final in the North Middlesex Open Championships to Jill Hammersley (left) and Shelagh Hession.

Photo by courtesy of Madison Public Relations, London.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

Norfolk had one of its most encouraging days in the County Championships for some time when, on November 6, all their three teams registered comfortable victories.

The first side, in Div. 2 East, travelled to Letchworth and accounted for Hertfordshire 7-3. John Turner had a good win over Jonathan Proffitt 17, 14, and also beat R. Jermyn 15, 15. Mick Musson, County captain, likewise had two wins, and Jeanne Brown won her singles. Bob Thornton and Edna Fletcher completed the team.

Norfolk II overcame Cambridge II 8-2 at Norwich C.E.Y.M.S. Our team comprised Chris Bensley, Neville Graver, Trevor Bunn, Wendy Hogg and Paula Ribbans. Each girl won her singles but they lost their doubles. This match was in Div. 3 East.

Lastly, our Juniors vanquished Leicestershire at C.E.Y.M.S., also by 8-2. Douglas Bennett, David Smith, Paul Ninham, Wendy Hogg and Heather Pearce gave an excellent display. Perhaps the most exciting set of the afternoon was that in which Wendy, who was unbeaten in this competition last season, had to go to 23-21 in the third against Miss J. Revill to retain her record. We should improve our position this term in Junior 2nd Midland.

The Norfolk Junior ranking list has been issued and reads:—

1, D. Bennett; 2, M. Ecclestone; 3, M. Archer; 4, D. Smith; 5, P. Ninham; 6, P. Brown; 7, A. Buckingham and 8 M. Cook.

Girls—1, W. Hogg; 2, P. Ribbans; 3, H. Pearce; 4, R. Harrowven; 5, Z. Nicholls and 6, S. Browne.

County Junior Coach, Vic Bennett, tells me he has made Halex Bronze Awards to the following six youngsters:—Anne Bowers, Stuart Baxter, Jeff Triggs, Carl Stevenson, Philip Barr and Andrew Wilson.

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This month JOHN PIKE talks to the most-capped British sportsman in any sport. That honour goes to Denis Neale, a household name in English table tennis for more than a decade now. It was thirteen years ago this month that Denis first wore an England shirt, and yet he still commands the sort of respect from world class players that could give England that much-needed lift at Birmingham next March.

Birthplace: Middlesbrough.

Birthdate: December 9th, 1944.

Which school did you attend?: Stainsby School.

Hobbies: All sports and especially winning money.

Favourite T.V. Programme: "Grandstand" and "World of Sport".

Favourite Food: All steaks.

Favourite Drink: Pernod and Lemonade.

Favourite Colour: Blue.

Favourite Singer: Gene Pitney.

Favourite sport outside table tennis: Horse Racing.

What is your pet like?: Winning.

What is your pet dislike?: Losing.

Ambition: To discover and coach a world champion at table tennis.

Which person in the world would you most like to meet?: Lester Piggott.

Greatest moment in table tennis: First time I played for England on December 13th, 1963.

Most difficult opponent: Chuang Tse-Tung.

Representative Honours: Have played nearly 400 times for England, represented Europe against Japan in 1970, five times champion of England, won the New Zealand Open, 1967, and also the Canadian Open the same year and again in 1968.

Favourite holiday resort: Nowhere special.

Favourite Car: MGB GT.

What are your thoughts on the World Championships and the future of English table tennis?: At the moment England is going through a process of rebuilding a new team, and therefore I think we can do quite well in the World Championships, but don't expect miracles. The event should be really well organised, as in my opinion, the English officials are the best in the world when it comes to organising major events.

The future of English table tennis is very much at the crossroads. When I first started playing for England we were feared by most countries, now sadly, we are lagging behind. More young players must be encouraged to play the game and they should be given the incentive to make a good living; in short, it should be a more professional approach. For example, more prize money for tournaments, and also a financial reward for those players selected for England in international matches. Unless these things happen, I can see England becoming a third class nation at table tennis.

Profile next month will feature Linda Howard.

NEW TABLE TENNIS HALL AT WOODFIELD

By JOHN PIKE

Woodfield, a household name in the Midlands for many years, are now the proud owners of a new table tennis hall. Gone are the days of the "Ice Age" in the old hall, but of course, the memories of that will still linger on.

It speaks volumes for the Woodfield club that over 160 members and friends, including the E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein, attended the opening ceremony at the end of October. The cost of the new hall was £16,000, and of this, the remarkable amount of £12,000 was raised by members and the balance was a grant from the West Midlands Sports Council.

It was fitting that Jim Sadler, from the Sports Council, officially opened the new centre, after Tony Phillips, the club chairman, had welcomed the guests. This was a proud day for Tony who had done so much himself to make the new venture possible. Joyce Hayward, another hard worker at the club for many years, received a picture from the club president, Eric Hubbard.

The exhibition matches that followed provided some very good table tennis, but when the three players involved, John Hilton, Brian Kean and Phil Bowen, turned

to comedy, their performance warranted a spot on New Faces. With Brian doing Benny Hill better than Benny Hill, and John and Phil filling a good supporting role, it really was a night to remember.

As the players left the table to tremendous applause, Albert McIlreath, the Wolverhampton chairman, replied for the guests.

Jim Hayward, who is president of the table tennis section at the club, made the closing remarks before the large gathering retired to the lounge for a buffet, which, like everything at Woodfield, was first class.

International Club

by Laurie Landry

The important event of our calendar is on January 2, 1977, at the Barnet Centre, Barnes Lane. This will be our sixth Hard Rubber Bat Open tournament, the closing date for which is **December 13, 1976**. Entry forms are still available but entries will be accepted on plain paper. (Fees are M.S. and W.S.—60p and M.D., W.D. and X.D.—30p plus 10p E.T.T.A. fee).

The M.S. and W.S. events give automatic entry to a consolation event for first round losers. The address is:— L. F. Landry, 29 Ravenshaw Street, London, NW6 1NP.

Laurie Landry, who will be away over the Christmas period and will not be sending cards this year, wishes all his friends and associates a Very Happy Christmas and a Successful New Year.

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Our picture shows Jim Sadler, of the West Midlands Sports Council, who officially opened the new building, handing over a Sports Council plaque to Tony Phillips, Chairman of the Woodfield club.

European League

RUSSIANS DOMINATE

by John Woodford

ENGLAND 0 U.S.S.R. 7

Six hundred East Anglian fans, a sell-out three weeks before the event, deserved a better return for their support than a "whitewash" by the Soviet Union. The facts are clear—England are not really strong enough for the Super Division of the European League, another season in the division below would have been better for all the players.

However, from my ringside seat I did not think England were really out-classed throughout most of the match, although towards the end, the Russian domination began to make itself felt. The Soviet Union are a sound side, but still relying basically on the same players, Strokotov seeming to be the only man to have made substantial progress.

Peter Simpson had the unenviable decision of whether to play Paul Day in the singles instead of Nicky Jarvis. He plumped for Jarvis's experience but, in hindsight, it looks as though a singles debut for Day might have paid off. Paul secured his debut in the European League, with Jarvis, as the Belgian Open champions, but they made little impression on Strokotov and Sarkhojan.

Considering she has only just regained fitness, Jill Hammersley excelled to come within two points of up-ending her rival of long standing, Zoya Rudnova. Both Denis Neale and Jarvis put all they knew into their singles matches and gave the Russians, Strokotov and Sarkhojan, a hard time. Jarvis's game is extremely vulnerable to a slippery floor because he has to use so much of the court. On several occasions the Cleveland man was left stranded as he slipped in trying to make his ground. This clearly led to his defeats. Jarvis's shoes must have the sort of adhesion required for motor vehicle tyres—unless the treads grip on the sort of floor used for dancing, as at Ipswich Corn Exchange, all is lost against this class of opposition.

Individual scores:—

- D. Neale lost to A. Strokotov -17, -18.
- N. Jarvis lost to S. Sarkhojan -19, -19.
- J. Hammersley lost to Z. Rudnova 19, -10, -19.
- P. Day/Jarvis lost to Sarkhojan/Strokotov -19, -14.
- Neale/Hammersley lost to Sarkhojan/E. Antonian -18, -13.
- Neale lost to Sarkhojan -18, -15.
- Jarvis lost to Strokotov -12, -16.

FRIENDLY

ALL SQUARE AT STROUD

by John Pike

Watching England hold Russia to a 4-4 draw at Stroud made nonsense of that 7-0 scoreline at Ipswich the previous evening. I know there is a big difference between a European League match and a friendly, but England really did themselves proud in front of a capacity Gloucestershire crowd at Stratford Park.

Starting where they left off in East Anglia, the Russians were soon 1-0 up when Sarkhojan beat Desmond Douglas in a game that saw the new England No. 2 fade in the decider.

Paul Day made the sort of international debut that players dream about. Not only did he beat Gomozkov to put England back on course, but he went on to win the "Man

of the Match" award with his win over Strokotov. Add to that his doubles win with Douglas over Strokotov and Gomozkov and it is easy to see what a great future Paul has on the European circuit.

Linda Howard and Carole Knight both showed up well in their singles matches before losing to the world's No. 13 and 14, Zoya Rudnova and Elmira Antonian. In the doubles, however, it was a different story as the Russian pair took this with plenty to spare.

That set the scene for a grandstand finish and that is the way it turned out. Trailing 4-2, Paul Day laid the foundation for an England draw with his win over Strokotov and then it was left to Desmond Douglas to stop the Russians completing the double. This he did with a fine win over

Gomozkov and it only left the large crowd to go home wondering how England had lost 7-0 at Ipswich.

Finally, a word of praise for Les Smith and his committee for putting on the sort of show that is bound to see international table tennis back in Stroud again before long.

Details:—

- D. Douglas lost to S. Sarkhojan -19, 18, -10; bt S. Gomozkov 10, -16, 17.
- P. Day bt Gomozkov 18, 19; bt Strokotov -11, 15, 20.
- L. Howard lost to Z. Rudnova 21, -17, -13.
- Day/Douglas bt Strokotov/Gomozkov 11, 16.
- Howard/C. Knight lost to Rudnova/E. Antonian -11, -12.
- Knight lost to Antonian -16, 18, -18.

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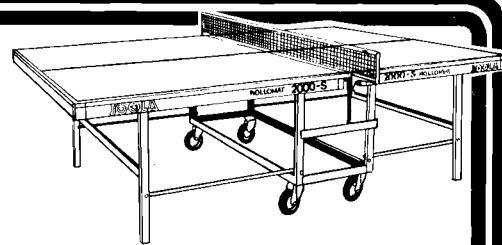
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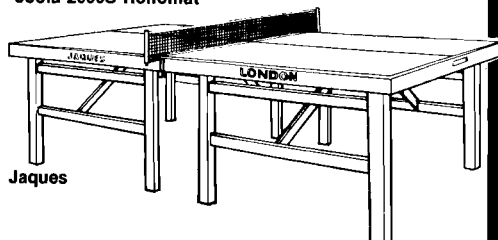
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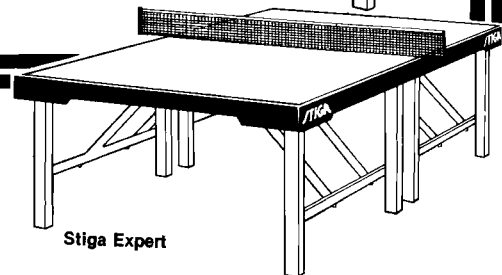
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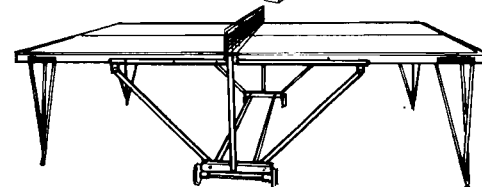
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**JUNIOR 2nd NORTH
Cleveland II 4, Derbyshire 6**

Derbys always had the edge on the boys' side while Cleveland were well on top with the girls. The match could easily have been drawn as the B.D. was won by Yallop and Allan (Dy) 21-19 in the decider, and John Hibbert won very narrowly against David Hughes with the score poised 5-4.

Clwyd 1, Lancashire 9

Cumbria 7, Durham 3

Yorkshire II 10, Northumberland 0

Yorkshire had little difficulty in beating their opponents and the only set to go the distance was the first—the visitors only gaining double figures in seven out of the next 18 ends.

Northumberland 3, Clwyd 7

A well-fought match between fairly evenly matched sides. Mark Thomas most impressive for Clwyd.

**JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND
Warwickshire 9, Cambridgeshire 1**

Cambridgeshire 2, Northamptonshire 8

Norfolk 8, Leicestershire 2

Douglas Bennett impressive and unusual sort of G.S. (for this level, anyway) when Wendy Hogg and Julie Revill just beat the timekeeper (sets were 11 mins., 13 mins. and 14½ mins)!

Staffordshire 5, Essex II 5

Suffolk 0, Warwickshire 10

Suffolk outplayed in all departments and Warwickshire's win as easy as the score suggests despite efforts by Suffolk boys and girls.

JUNIOR 3rd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 0, Essex III 10

Sussex II 6, Hampshire II 4

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

Cheshire 9, Cleveland III 1

Lincolnshire 9, Clwyd II 1

Nottinghamshire 8, Cumbria II 2

Cumbria's two wins coming after Notts had raced ahead 5-0, but unable to continue their winning ways and the hosts took the last three.

JUNIOR 3rd MIDLAND

Herefordshire 3, Staffordshire II 7

Oxfordshire 4, Shropshire 6

Gloucestershire 5, Worcestershire 5

JUNIOR 3rd EAST

Bedfordshire 7, Huntingdonshire 3

Lincolnshire II 7, Cambridgeshire II 3

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

Glamorgan 5, Wiltshire 5

Gwent 5, Cornwall 5

Avon 10, Somerset 0

Cornwall 1, Glamorgan 9

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 8, Warwickshire 1

A great performance by John Earles to defeat an "in-form" Lou Moran in the last set which avoided the "whitewash".

Clwyd II 2, Leicestershire 7

Nottinghamshire 8, Clwyd 1

VETERAN EAST

Hertfordshire 3, Essex II 6

Kent 7, Huntingdonshire 2

VETERAN WEST

Wiltshire 8, Dorset 1

Worcestershire 1, Hampshire 8

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

CHALLENGE MATCHES

Dates for this season's Promotion Challenge Matches are 16th-17th April (for the Juniors) and 30th April-1st May (Senior). For the last couple of years these Challenges have been played at a hospital near St. Albans and, for one reason or another, is no longer suitable.

I am interested in hearing from any Club, League or County who would be willing to stage these matches. Basic requirements are: 2 good courts (3 for the Junior Challenge), and all the usual things with the added facility of reasonable overnight accommodation in the near vicinity for about 40 people and the ability to supply (preferably cooked) mid-day meal on the Sunday.

Any clubs or associations willing to undertake one or both sets of Challenge Matches, please contact the County Championships' Administrator, Mr. Bob Bridges, 4 Tysoe Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 6DY.

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP PLACINGS
up to November 12th**

PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Cleveland	4	4	0	0	30	6	8
Warwickshire	3	2	0	1	17	10	4
Middlesex	3	1	0	2	14	13	2
Surrey	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	7	11	2
Cheshire	4	1	0	3	13	23	2
Essex	2	1	0	1	6	12	2
Leicestershire	2	0	0	2	5	13	0

2nd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Devon	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Worcestershire	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Berkshire	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Wiltshire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Somerset	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Avon	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Gwent	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Middlesex	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Berkshire	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Essex	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Cleveland	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Kent	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Yorkshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Hertfordshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Surrey	2	0	0	2	16	15	0

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Devon	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Middlesex II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Sussex	2	1	0	1	13	7	2
Dorset	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Surrey II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Berkshire II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Kent II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR 2nd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Yorkshire II	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Cumbria	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Lancashire	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
Derbyshire	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Cleveland II	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Durham	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Clwyd	2	0	0	2	1	19	0
Northumberland	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

JUNIOR 2nd MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Warwickshire	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Staffordshire	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Norfolk	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Essex II	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Northants	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	11	9	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0
Suffolk	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

JUNIOR 3rd NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Lincolnshire	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Nottinghamshire	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Cumbria II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Cleveland III	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Clwyd III	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

JUNIOR 3rd WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wiltshire	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Gwent	2	1	1	0	11	9	3
Avon	2	1	0	1	14	6	2
Cornwall	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Glamorgan	1	0	1	0	5	5	1
Somerset	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

**LOWESTOFT
JUBILEE**

by Mike Parker

Table Tennis in Lowestoft dates back to the turn of the century with the Y.M.C.A. Club being one of the first clubs outside London to be affiliated to the then Table Tennis Association.

Up to 1926 friendly matches were played between church teams until the League was formed by the Reverend Charlsh and Bill Garnham. Ten church teams competed in the first season and they were joined by social clubs and local works' sides in the thirties.

The game developed steadily and it was not until the fifties that a real boom came. The number of teams topped 70, Briar Clyffe School boasted two Junior internationals in Peter "Tip" Cole and John Collins, and these two players, with David Bardsley, became the youngest team to win the Premier Division in Lowestoft with an aggregate age of 42.

Lowestoft was virtually the County, with a great depth of talent on and off the table. Arthur Durrant, "Mr. Table Tennis", was to the fore, "Bat Chat", an excellent monthly magazine, was acclaimed nationwide, and the Y.M.C.A. provided a central meeting place for players.

Since the fifties standards have declined but Lowestoft's women did reach the J. M Rose Bowl final in 1970. A great achievement by Jean and Diane Youngs and Linda Woodcock, although losing in the final to Central London, whose team included Karenza Mathews. It is hoped that the League's fortunes will once again surge forward and the continued wide programme of activities should provide the necessary springboard.

A celebration evening was held at Denes Holiday Camp, Kessingland Beach, on October 26, which featured an exhibition by the England International Squad. Jill Hammersley, Linda Howard, Paul Day, Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Walker and Donald Parker provided a highly entertaining display which thrilled the spectators. The performance of Ken Mathews, the Squad Manager, was also duly noted, especially by the Camp owner, who is looking for a comic for next holiday season!

Members, past and present, were joined by regional administrators and Charles Wyles, O.B.E., Chairman of the E.T.T.A. The event was organised by Mike Parker and was made possible through generous sponsorship from the National Westminster Bank and local firms.

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County Championships Round-up

by BOB BRIDGES

CONTINUING SUCCESS

The Cleveland success-story continues in the County Championships Premier Division with Warwickshire leading the rest of the field away from the relegation zone. Leicestershire are now the only County without a win at this level and must do something very quickly if they wish to stay. Meanwhile, Middlesex, Surrey, Yorkshire, Cheshire and Essex are all vulnerable and some exciting tussles can be expected.

Some interesting results from the five second divisions include the 9-1 "mashing" by Essex II over Middlesex II. Essex II languished at the foot of this division last season, but with players such as Kevin Calden, David Iszatt and Stuart Gibbs, they should do better. Relegated from the Premier and hoping to go straight back are Lancashire. They disposed of Lincolnshire 7-3 in their opening match in 2 North, while down in 2 Midland, Cheshire are laying the foundations towards keeping their first team up in the Premier by winning this one. But they will have to contend with Glamorgan, who travelled the length of Wales to beat Clwyd 9-1.

At junior level, the Middlesex quest for the Junior Premier Championship is progressing without too much trouble (in terms of results, but they will have to improve their transport arrangements to get players to matches on time). Some close matches have been played in this division, six out of eight played so far resulting 6-4, with Surrey and the promoted Hertfordshire victims of 9-1 reversals.

PREMIER DIVISION

Middlesex 4, Essex 5

M. Mitchell bt I. Horsham 16, -19, 18; bt D. Brown 20, 17.
D. Tan lost to Horsham -13, -16; bt R. Pottton 10, 10.
R. Aldrich lost to Brown -10, -14; lost to Pottton -19, -22.
Mitchell/Tan bt Brown/Pottton 13, 20.
Miss A. Mitchell lost to Mrs. L. Radford -23, -19.
Aldrich/Miss Mitchell lost to Horsham/Mrs. Radford 17, -15, -17.

Leicestershire 3 Surrey 6

A rather disappointing result for the home side who might have expected better things. Paul Randell played well for Leics., with Linda Howard giving an immaculate display for Surrey.
P. Randell bt S. Lyons 17, 18; bt M. Crimmins 18, 18.
C. Rodgers lost to Lyons 19, -14, -15; lost to D. Welsman -14, -15.
M. Newman lost to Crimmins -17, -21; lost to Welsman -16, -18.
Newman/Rogers bt Crimmins/Welsman -14, 9, 20.
Miss K. Rogers lost to Miss L. Howard -13, -14.
Randell/Miss A. Stevenson lost to Lyons/Miss Howard -25, -18.

Warwickshire 6, Cheshire 3

Another good performance from Warwickshire with two wins each for Des Douglas and Dougie Johnson (what a revelation he's been this season!!). Score was 3-all before home side "reeled-off" the last three.
D. Douglas bt J. Hilton 8, 15; bt N. Eckersley, 13, 9.
D. Munt lost to Hilton -16, 16, -13; bt R. Hampson 11, 10.
D. Johnson bt Eckersley 11, -14, 16; bt Hampson 17, 14.
Johnson/Munt bt Eckersley/Hampson 12, 16.
Miss K. Groves lost to Miss S. Lisle -4, -10.
Douglas/Miss Groves lost to Hilton/Miss Lisle -16, -19.

Cleveland 8, Yorkshire 1

Cleveland's victory was as comfortable as the score suggests and Yorkshire's only win mainly due to the generosity of the home players!
D. Neale bt A. Fletcher 11, 13; bt K. Beadsley 10, 11.
N. Jarvis bt Fletcher 14, 13; bt M. Harrison 18, 7.
J. Walker bt Beadsley 11, 13; bt Harrison 21, 19.
Jarvis/Walker lost to Beadsley/Harrison -19, 16, -17.
Miss C. Knight bt Miss M. Lüdi 19, 18.
Neale/Miss Knight bt Fletcher/Miss Lüdi 17, 11.

2nd SOUTH Hampshire 1, Sussex 9

Surrey II 3, Kent 7

Kent fortunate to go 7-0 up with four of those successes in the decider added to which Gerald Walsh presented Clive Morris with an early Christmas present.

Essex II 9, Middlesex II 1

Essex could take this division by storm after last season's agonies at the other end of the table when they finished bottom.

2nd NORTH

Lancashire 7, Lincolnshire 3

Yorkshire II 8, Northumberland 2

Yorkshire's strength too much for visitors, who have lost services of "Benny" Robertson, who has returned to London.

Cleveland II 7, Durham 3

2nd MIDLAND

Clwyd 1, Glamorgan 9

Derbyshire 5, Staffordshire 5

Warwickshire II 3, Cheshire II 7

2nd EAST

Cambridgeshire 7, Northants 3

Hertfordshire 3, Norfolk 7

Bedfordshire 5, Buckinghamshire 5

2nd WEST

Avon 4, Somerset 6

Chris Sewell (Avon) apart, Somerset stronger in all departments.

Gwent 4, Devon 6

Wiltshire 4, Berkshire 6

A close match in which the "usual" women's matches and David Reeves' sets went to Berkshire.

3rd SOUTH

Buckinghamshire II 1, Essex III 9

Kent II 7, Hertfordshire III 3

Sussex II 10, Bedfordshire II 0

3rd NORTH

Cumbria 7, Nottinghamshire 3

Derbyshire II 6, Cleveland III 4

Northumberland II 1, Lancashire II 9

Lucille Clark's return to table tennis after break of three years provided home side's consolation win—Lancashire too strong.

Northumberland II 6, Cumbria 4

Northumberland's first win for two seasons.

3rd MIDLAND

Glamorgan II 8, Shropshire 2

Staffordshire II 7, Clwyd II 3

Northamptonshire II 0, Leicestershire II 10

Although obviously outclassed, Northants rely on their women for most of their sets, but this was nullified by inclusion of Karen Rogers for the visitors.

3rd EAST

Huntingdonshire 3, Hertfordshire II 7

Hunts down 0-5 and the ball not running for them—the visitors gaining three of those in the decider and close games they were. Match played at the new St. Neots Club.

Norfolk II 8, Cambridgeshire II 2

Good start by Neville Graver to beat Geoff Davies 13, 18, gave sound basis for good Norfolk performance. Chris Bensley/Graver impressive in M.D. and Paula Ribbans gave good account in her first senior match.

3rd WEST

Worcestershire II 7, Avon II 3

Cornwall 6, Avon II 4

Gloucestershire 4, Worcestershire II 6

Herefordshire 5, Dorset 5

JUNIOR PREMIER

Berkshire 6, Kent 4

Good match with Berks girls far too strong for opposition. Defender David Barr scored valuable win on first team debut. D. Reeves lost to J. Kennedy -19, -19; bt P. Ptak 20, 18.

R. Johnson lost to Kennedy -21, -16; lost to A. Spain -16, -20.

D. Barr lost to Ptak -13, -18; bt Spain 9, -14, 13.

Johnson/Reeves bt Kennedy/Spain -18, 12, 18.

Miss K. Witt bt Miss E. Bolton 10, 9.

Miss M. Smith bt Miss D. Collar 12, 6.

Miss Smith/Miss Witt bt Miss Bolton/Miss Collar 10, 15.

Cleveland 4, Yorkshire 6

A very close, hard-fought match which could have quite easily resulted in a draw. Cleveland's girls clearly superior and Yorkshire's boys well in command, although Mark Murphy did well to beat Stephen Mills.

I. Plummer lost to K. Beadsley -11, -15; lost to M. Harrison -17, -19.

M. Murphy lost to Beadsley -16, -10; bt S. Mills -17, 11, 14.

M. Laird lost to Harrison 18, -11, -16; lost to Mills -14, -13.

Laird/Plummer lost to Beadsley/Harrison -16, 19, -17.

Miss A. Tierney bt Miss L. Hryzsko 19, 15.

Miss J. Williams bt Miss S. Dickerson 14, 17.

Miss Tierney/Miss Williams bt Miss Dickerson/Miss Hryzsko 18, 20.

Essex 9, Surrey 1

An easy win for Essex with only Stephen Boxall showing strong opposition—his win over Leon Smith being the best set of the match.

D. Newman bt S. Boxall 17, 20; bt D. Hannah 14, 11.

L. Smith lost to Boxall 19, -17, -17; bt S. Woodgate 17, 11.

S. Kimm bt Hannah -15, 17, 14; bt Woodgate 9, 16.

Newman/Smith bt Boxall/Hannah 11, 22.

Miss H. Gore bt Miss S. Roebuck 11, 15.

Miss E. Sayer bt Miss S. Walker 17, 14.

Miss Gore/Miss Sayer bt Miss Roebuck/Miss Walker 11, 9.

Middlesex 9, Hertfordshire 1

Result truly reflects difference between the two counties with only Richard Jermyn able to compete on the same sort of terms as Middlesex, and David Wells miles ahead of everyone in terms of class.

D. Wells bt R. Jermyn -18, 15, 5; bt G. Booth 16, 9.

G. Sandley lost to Jermyn 20, -14, -18; bt T. Pleasance 19, 11.

A. Proffitt bt Booth 10, 13; bt Pleasance 9, 13.

Proffitt/Sandley bt Booth/Jermyn 17, -19, 14.

Miss A. Mitchell bt Miss J. Glazebrook 11, 10.

Miss M. Reeves bt Miss C. Webster 9, 15.

Miss Mitchell/Miss Reeves bt Miss Glazebrook/Miss Webster 11, 14.

JUNIOR 2nd SOUTH

Middlesex II 7, Berkshire II 3

Boys' match: Middlesex 7, Berkshire 0;

Girls' match: Middlesex 0, Berks 3!!

Dorset 8, Surrey II 2

A match full of high quality play on both sides, with the average age slightly lower for the Surrey team. Dorset well pleased with the result and look forward optimistically.

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